Hafa Adai!

2024 NMI FestPac delegation still welcomes donations. PAGE 2
Flores says House, Senate relationship at a stalemate. PAGE 4

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 95

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY MAY 13, 2024 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Rota business group supports US-China flight cap exemption

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Marianas Visitors Authority staff, Oh My Grill representatives, and this year's 25th Annual Taste of the Marianas Oh My Grill International Food Challenge competitors pose for a photo last Saturday during the Taste of the Marianas Food Festival.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota Chamber of Commerce has backed the CNMI's plea for the U.S. Department of Transportation to exempt the Commonwealth from the current China-U.S flight cap.

McCoy

Recently, Rota Chamber of Commerce president Steven McCoy wrote a letter addressed to USDOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg in support of the CNMI's ask to reinstate Annex VI under the U.S.-China Air Transport Agreement of July 9, 2007.

See ROTA on Page 4

S. Korean social media star rules Oh My Grill Int'l Food Challenge

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

International social media star Sang Hyuk Kwon was named the champion of this year's Taste of the Marianas Oh My Grill International Food Challenge held last Saturday.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

South Korean social media star Sang Hyuk Kwon triumphed during the 25th Annual Taste of Marianas Oh My Grill International Food Challenge last Saturday.

The second night of the 25th Annual Taste of Marianas garnered thousands of participants from locals and

See STAR on Page 4

GAO: Efforts to better understand, address data gaps in territories are not coordinated

» Kilili says timely, accurate data crucial for informing decisions, achieving progress

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sablan

While U.S. territories have made efforts to enhance their statistics with support from the U.S. Department of the Interior, efforts to better understand and address data gaps in the territories are not coordinated across the principal statistical agencies, according to the U.S.

See GAO on Page 4

Flores

Bill seeks to repeal salaries of the casino, cannabis commissioners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) formally introduced Friday a bill that seeks to repeal the salaries of the commissioners of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and the CNMI Cannabis Commission.

Flores' House Bill 23-107 requires that the casino and cannabis commissioner receive compensation in accordance with 1 CMC Section 8247.

Section 8247 states that "the rate of compensation for meetings attended for members of all government corporations, councils, commissions, [and agencies] ... shall be no more than $60 for a full day meeting and no more than $30 for a half day

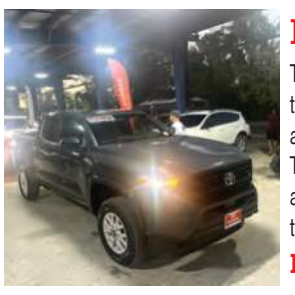
See BILL on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL

Federal judicial districts throughout the Ninth Circuit have selected their local civics contest winners who will advance as finalists in the preliminary round of the 2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest.

PAGE 9



BUSINESS

Toyota is thrilled to announce the launch of the highly anticipated 2024 Toyota Tacoma on Saipan, marking a new era of excellence in the truck industry.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

Sean "Diddy" Combs on Friday asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit alleging that he and two co-defendants raped a 17-year-old girl in a New York recording studio in 2003, saying it was a "false and hideous claim" that was filed too late under the law.

PAGE 11

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

2024 NMI FestPac delegation still welcomes donations

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI's delegation to the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture is still short of around $100,000 to facilitate their trip to Hawaii this June.

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture director Gloriana Teuira and 2024 FestPac NMI Delegation committee organizer Mary Margaret "Maggie" Sablan said $99,000 is still needed to purchase $160,000 worth of airfare tickets for over 100 delegates.

While FestPac is still a few weeks away, both acknowledge that they need to pay the airfare tickets today, May 13.

"So, we are hoping the rest of the money will kind of fall into place. We're praying that's going to happen," said Sablan.

Teuira shared that there is a portion of the funding expected to come from Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, but unfortunately time is not in their favor as they haven't been able to receive the money yet.

Not wanting to overburden the government, Sablan shared, "The money we asked for from the government, didn't cover our airfare 100%. Because I believe that we are all hurting—the businesses, the government, the people, our residents, our families—so we have to show our leaders also that we are trying to help ourselves. This is not a joy ride for us, we are working hard also. We are fundraising, we're asking for sponsorships, and you know we're also asking family also to come out and support us, and if we have to, we can also stand outside on the curbside and ask for money."

"We've already made deposits for the tickets but it's not enough to fully cover the tickets. We're waiting for the SNILD, because [Gov. Arnold I. Palacios] did his part already, all of these things [funding received] are going into what we can put in for the tickets, but I'm just saying that if they're not going to give it, just say that they're not going to give it. It'll be a very big challenge for Hawaii if we are down to the last minute and we say that we are pulling out. Imagine all the things they have to go through to take us out of the housing and the program, and it's on their website already," said Teuira.

Teuira also shared that as they are in the 11th hour, "I think the coordinator side of me is talking right now that tickets should've been paid off three months ago."

"We are still following up on letters we've sent out," said Sablan, adding that they are still welcoming donations even during and after the FestPac.

Sablan shared that each delegation was given four years to prepare for FestPac, but unfortunately for the CNMI, organizing the delegation only started six months ago.

"I was appointed in October and so we didn't have very much time and that is why our categories of participation are very small."

She shared that at the festival itself there are 10 categories of participation—fashion, culinary, blacksmith, carving, and floral designs, among others. With a total of 100 delegates attending, the NMI will have participants in performing arts, which include dancers and musicians, then visual artists, seafarers, carvers, and weavers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

"Every FestPAC, each country is only given 100 delegates that the hosting country will cover. Anybody outside the 100, their delegation has to cover them from food to lodging, etc.," said Teuira. "So, this 100 going to Hawaii we only need to bring them down to Hawaii then Hawaii takes care

See FESTPAC on Page 4

LUTA
AGRICULTURAL FAIR
Rota, Chamorro Village
Friday, May 24, 2024
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Slots are limited.
First come, first serve!
REGISTER TO
ENTER YOUR PLANTS
AND/OR ANIMALS!
please scan THE
QR CODE!
with your smartphone camera
or visit: bit.ly/LUTAAGFAIR0524
Must be registered to participate!
For more information:
and/or help with registration, please contact Deron Mendiola or
Diana Hocog from the Northern Marianas College at (670) 285-7682
or (670)532-9513.
You may also contact Myra Ogo from DLNR at (670)532-9495.
CNMI GREEN
GROWTH
INITIATIVE
Produce
Livestock
Ornamentals
Northern Marianas College CREES is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
Northern Marianas College CREES is committed to providing access and reasonable
accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education, and employment for
individuals with disabilities. For more information or to request disability accommodation
contact: Margaret Kintol at margaret.kintol@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6855.

ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION of

YongTai Corporation, a CNMI Company/Corporation
Does Hereby Certify Yongtai Corporation

First: That dissolution has been authorized by the company on March 31, 2024.

Second: That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation Regulations

Third: That process may be served against the Corporation at the following address: PMB 919 BOX 10001 Saipan MP 96950

Fourth: That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.

Fifth: That NUMBER votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Said Yongtai Corporation has caused this article of dissolution to be signed by following Board of Directors at this 31st of April 2024.

Approved By: /s/ Zhou Jun, President; /s/ Tao Liang, Secretary /Treasurer; /s/ Wang Hai, Vice-president

VEHICLE FOR SALE
"AS IS"

2016 TOYOTA TACOMA

Last Day for bid is May 17, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call Loans Department at (670) 235-6260. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

BANK OF SAIPAN
MARIANAS PRIDE

JKPL's Bookmobile offers free Summer Reading Program

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Bookmobile invites the Saipan community to join where "Adventures Begin at Your Library" starting Wednesday, July 10, 2024. Team JKPL's Bookmobile encourages everyone from infants, toddlers, and preschoolers to children, teens, and adults to accomplish reading goals and continue learning throughout the summer. The Bookmobile will be conducting JKPL's free Summer Reading Program from 9:30am. to 11:30am at the following sites:

- Tanapag Youth Center from July 10 to July 12, 2024
- Carolinian Utt/Pavillion from July 17 to July 19, 2024
- Kagman Community Center from July 24 to July 26, 2024
- Fernando M. Benavente Memorial Library (San Antonio) from July 30, July 31, and Aug. 2, 2024

The public is invited to register for the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Bookmobile Summer Reading Program for Early Literacy, children, teens, and adults during library hours of operation from May 14, 2024, to May 31, 2024. Seating is limited and registrants must have a valid library card with no library fines.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has provided free summer reading programs to the CNMI community for more than 20 years. The theme this year, "Adventures Begin at Your Library," invites you to take an adventure in your library through activities, programs, and all kinds of books. By joining the fun, you'll earn prizes, and connect with others through the power of stories.

The JKPL is a member of the Collaborative Summer Library Program and partners with various community donors, sponsors, and agencies (private/public) to promote literacy during the summer. Studies have shown that during the summer, children and teens who aren't reading or participating in other learning activities can lose up to two months of academic skills achieved during the school year. Participating in the Summer Reading program can help students avoid the "summer slide." Additionally, children who see their parents and other adults in their lives reading tend to read more and build healthy reading habits.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupublicliblrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupublicliblrary, TikTok @jkpl670, Twitter @Joeten-Kiyu, and YouTube: joeten kiyu public library or visit our website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. For more information regarding any of our activities, please contact JKPL at (670) 235-7322/7315. ***(PR)***

ARMATECH

Parking Management System Installer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 I Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

2024 SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

I STAND WITH SURVIVORS

In April, our community came together to stand in solidarity for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), raising awareness and advocating for the cause of victims and survivors in the CNMI. The support we witnessed during SAAM was truly profound. We want to express our deepest gratitude to victims, survivors, and their families. Your remarkable bravery and courage serve as the driving force behind our efforts to end the cycle of sexual violence.

We also want to extend sincere appreciation to the first responders, service providers, advocates, volunteers, donors, and partners whose continued support has been invaluable. As SAAM comes to a close, it's crucial to highlight that our combined efforts extend far beyond April; they should be upheld and acknowledged throughout the year. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to **STAND WITH SURVIVORS**.

Governor Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor David M. Apatang
Chester Hinds
Kimberlyn King-Hinds
Rosemond Santos-Sword

SAIPAN
Speaker Edmund Villagomez
180 Productions Band &
The Revolutionary
Aaron Tomokane
Abygnale's
Albrina Hiram
Alvin Diestro
Amalia Pangelinan
Amy Soliman
Angel Nica Voces
Antonette Labausa
Arnold Route
Ashley C. Babauta
Ben Babauta
Benster Aldan
Benylin Mettao
Bridget Lizama
C.P.I.3
Camille Quitugua
Celina Romolor-Route
Celine Park
Chrislaine Manibusan
Christine Aldan
Claire S. Park
Dean Tenorio
Dixie Camacho
Domingka Kosy
Dong Hyun "William" Lee
DPS Comissioner Anthony I. Macaranas
DPS K-9 Demonstration
Dr. Beylul Solomon
Edward Cordero
Eloise Lopez
Elsie Tilipao-Rebuenog
Eric Borja
Erwin Paul Togawa
Francisco Tuwun
Francis Deleon Guerrero
Frank Li
Frannie Demapan
Fred Sachko
Gary Sword
Genelin Camacho
Gordon Marciano
Gwanhun Son
Gwanpil Son
Gyu Hyeon (Sean) Park
Island Grindz
Jared Manahane
Jason Yu
Jay "Furbz" Santos
Jenny Clayton
Jenny Sablan
Jerilynn Bluu Haruo
Jiho Kong
Jinhee (Cathy) Woo
Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero
Johanna Lizama
Jolanie Tenorio
Jordan Paradise
Joseph Henry Ada
Joseph Thomas Sablan
Joshua Yoo
Jovahnalyn Cabrera
Juanicia Villanueva
Julia Espino
Julie Ann Laniyo
Julie Camacho
K.L.M. K-Pop Dancers
Kaeli Jo Pathil
KarlyMae K. Lizama
Kayla Tudela
Kayla Yi
Kennedy DLG. Benjamin
Kiana Sablan
Kristy Diaz
KwangHee (Jayden) Lim
Lamari Cabrera
Lani Diaz
Lareina Camacho
Lauri Ogumoro
Local Girls Lemonada
Lorenza Smith
Lorraine Iglecias
Lt. Andrew Taimanao
Maile Lomongo
Malia Passi
Malina B. Tenorio
Malyssa Q. Castro
Mariana B. Tenorio
Marie Leightley
Meena Benavente
Melycher Sablan
Memama Asep
Mike C. Tenorio
Minerva Wabol
Monica Shilling
Musubiya
Nadia Moses
Ning Bian
Oceana Teigita
Orlando Limes
Patricia Borja
Peachy Quitugua
Philip Santos
Princes Castro
Principal Victorino Borja
Ramon (Ray) Tebuteb
Ray Lizama
Rev. Fr. Enrico Nacorda
Rev. Fr. Rey D. Rosal
Rica Ann M. Gatchalian
Richard Baleares
Richelle Mungwaath
Ronilo D. Belen
Ryan Babauta
Samantha Sikayun
Saniva Toves
Sharina Clark
Sheyvonne Aldan
Shiella Marie Deray
Shirly Dikito
Simiyan Marianas
Simon Necesito
Stanley Michael
Stephanie Kim
Sunny Ma
Tahj Salas
Thomas Tomokane
Tiffany Mae Deco
Trench Tech: Cuki Alvarez, Mari Alvarez, and Shaniah Alvarez
Trisha Joaquin
Victoria I. Pangelinan
Viktoria Buniag
Vinnie Sablan
Vivian Sablan
Wataru Kadokura
Weena Gwendolyn T. Iguel
Wendy Son
Wilson Brian Calantog
Xavier Lee
Yu Hui Cao
Zi Hao Zhou

ROTA
Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog
Acting Mayor of Rota, Jim A. Atalig
Team Alibiu
Anthony Barcinas & Family
Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Public Library
Center for Living Independently in the CNMI
CHCC-Community Guidance Center
CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
CNMI Department of Public Safety
CNMI Governor's Office-OGM, Dwayne Maratita
CNMI Lt. Governor's Rota's Representative Trisna Reyes
CNMI PSS-Head Start/Early Head Start Program
CNMI PSS-Mental Health/Haligi Aware
CNMI Public School System
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Community Volunteers
DCCA-Admin Office
DCCA-Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture
DCCA-Division of Youth Services
DCCA-Sports and Rec
Dept. of Land & Natural Resources (Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle)
Diana B. Hocog
Doralynn Barcinas
Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School
Hagu La'mun
Ivan Mereb Jr.
Marie Ayuyu
MC Food Stand
Mildred W. Sikebert & Family
MOR-CPGO
MOR-Field Staff
MOR-Inventory
MOR-Programs, Dina Songao
Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Quindy Maratita & Family
R & E Enterprise
Rota Community
Rota Health Center
Rota Mayor's Office (MOR)
Rota Public Information Office
Sinapalo Elementary School
Stel Charfaurous
Teteto COOL Spot

TINIAN
Mayor Edwin P. Aldan
Anthony Borja
Chad Palacios
Dennis Borja
Dolores Villagomez
Dorthy San Nicolas
Edward Hofschneider
Ethan Palacios
Gizelle Kwon-Sablan
James Manglona
Jennielyn Cruz
Jodrik Mendiola
Keyanie Arriola
Kyle Monkeya
Laura Palacios
Ray Dela Cruz
Telisha Borja
Tommy Mendiola
Victoria Sanchez
Vincent Lee Muna
Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguiguan
Center for Living Independently in the CNMI
CNMI Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services
CNMI Department of Public Safety
DLNR-Division of Fish & Wildlife
Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc.
Tinian Health Center
Tinian Jr. Sr. High School
Tinian Public Gymnasium
Tinian Youth Center

DONORS
Boarderline
Bobole's Novelties
Bridge Capital, LLC
CNMI PSS-Athletics Program
Coca-Cola Beverage Company
Dean Tenorio
Elena Relox Delos Santos
Fleming Power & Ansley Corporation
Jenny & Randy Clayton
Kaitlyn Punzalan
KUAM
Marianas High School-Dolphin Pride Club
Merlita Masga
Northern Marianas College-Office of Student Activities & Leadership
Office of Grants Management
Paula Bermudes
Pena House Boutique and Salon
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
Thomas Manglona

2024 SAAM COMMITTEE PARTNERS
Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School
Autism Society of the CNMI
Calvary Christian Church
CHCC-MICAH / Family to Family Health Information Center
CHCC-Mobile Outreach Clinic
CHCC-Non-Communicable Disease Program
CHCC-Community Guidance Center
CNMI Department of Commerce-ABTC Division
CNMI Department of Corrections
CNMI Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services
CNMI Department of Public Safety
CNMI Judiciary-Office of Adult Probation
CNMI PSS-Head Start/Early Head Start Program
CNMI PSS-Mental Health/ Haligi Aware
Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)-17th Cycle Academy
Cornerstone Christian Church
DCCA-Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture
DCCA-Division of Youth Services, Child Protective Services
Diocese of Chalan Kanoa: CNMI-wide Catholic Parishes
Francisco M. Sablan Middle School
Grace Christian Assembly-Kagman
Grace Christian Assembly-Navy Hill
Grace Christian Assembly-San Antonio
Hanom Lina'la Christian Assembly
Jesus Is Lord Christian Church
Joeten Kiyu Public Library
Kagman High School
Kagman High School-Interact Club
Karidat Social Services & Victim Hotline
KKMP Radio Station
Life In the Son Christian Church
Marianas High School-Interact Club
Marianas High School-JROTC Dolphin Battalion
Marianas High School-One Day at a Time Club
Marianas High School-Youth Advisory Panel
Matansa Football Club
Micronesian Legal Services Corporation
Northern Marianas Athletics
Northern Marianas College-School of Education
Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.
Northern Marianas Technical Institute
Office of the Attorney General - Criminal Division, Victim Witness Advocacy Unit
Office of the Governor-Office of Youth Affairs
Saipan Church of Christ
Saipan Humane Society
Saipan International School-Gecko Interact Club
Saipan Mayor's Office
Saipan Southern High School
Saipan Southern High School-Interact Club
San Jose Parish

Flores says House, Senate relationship at a stalemate

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) said on Friday that at this point her view is that the House of Representatives has reached a stalemate in regard to their relationship with members of the Senate.

Flores said during the House's special session that while she commends Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero's (D-Saipan) power to reorganize the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law, it's fair to say that in total there are 43 bills that have yet to pass that committee.

She said while the Senate members have accepted their membership into the newly reorganized JGL committee, she would hope that they take the pending bills into consideration.

"Many of the bills have been proposed and passed in this House since last year. And it would be interesting to see how quickly they will," Flores said.

Last Wednesday, Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), the newly appointed chairman of the JGL Committee, notified president DeLeon Guerrero that he already appointed members to serve on the committee.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Chamber to host 2nd Annual Economic Forum on May 16

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host the 2nd Annual Economic Forum on May 16, 2024, from 9am to 1pm at the Taga Hall of World Resort Saipan

This event will feature a diverse panel of stakeholders discussing economic conditions, challenges, and opportunities in our community. The Chamber is pleased to have Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona from the U.S. District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands as their opening speaker, and Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero as their as our keynote speaker. The panelists represent various sectors including finance, infrastructure, planning and development, labor, and tourism.

The Chamber invites Chamber members and future members to attend. Chamber member rates start at $25 per person and future-Chamber member rates are $35 per person, including light refreshments and beverages. ***(PR)***

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

STAR

From page 1

tourists alike to cheer on the champ for this year's Oh My Grill Marianas International Food Challenge.

This year, South Korean and Japanese social media stars Sang Hyuk Kwon and Sachiyo Masubuchi (two-time Taste of the Marianas International Food champion) came out to the CNMI to partake in last Saturday's competition.

The two social media influencers went up against Subway Sandwich Challenge winners Jeremy Rother, Bob Liu, and Michael Ma Ye.

During the competition, hundreds of Korean and Japanese tourists and locals came out in support of their fellow countrymen. Both the Japanese and Korean communities went as far as printing flags which they waived high and proud as they cheered on their champions.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BILL

From page 1

or less meeting; provided that the compensation shall not exceed a maximum of $6,000 per year..."

Under the current statute, the casino commissioners are compensated at the rate of $40,000 for the first year of the commission's existence and $65,000 per annum for each year thereafter.

Under the current statute, the cannabis commissioners are compensated at a rate of $55,000 per annum.

Flores stated in the bill that a comparison of these salaries against compensation received by other commissioners and board members of entities within the CNMI government reveals a significant disparity.

She said in light of this disparity and the dire economic situation currently faced by the government, the compensation received by the casino and cannabis commissioners are disproportionately high.

Flores' legislation rectifies the disparity in compensation between the casino and cannabis commissioners, and other similarly-situated positions within the government.

ROTA

From page 1

This reinstatement would essentially exempt the CNMI from USDOT's China Part 213 Order that caps the number of flights from China to the entire United States and its territories.

"I am writing to you today on behalf of the Rota Chamber of Commerce in strong support of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands recent request. The RCC firmly believes that restoring Annex VI is not only beneficial but essential for the economic revival and sustainability of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) subsequent to the unprecedented global challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic," said McCoy.

McCoy, highlighting the urgent need for action, writes that the suspension and subsequent restrictions on international air travel due to the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately affected the CNMI and has impacted the CNMI's recovery efforts.

"The U.S.-China Air Transport Agreement has historically served as a cornerstone for enhancing bilateral ties between the two nations, promoting tourism, cultural exchanges, and economic development. Annex VI has played a pivotal role in enabling direct air services between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the CNMI, significantly contributing to the island's tourism industry and economic health by making it one of the top tourist destinations for Chinese travelers. The reinstatement of Annex VI is a critical step forward," he said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

GAO

From page 1

Government Accountability Office's report published last Thursday.

GAO found that principal statistical agencies generally have not conducted research to examine the costs, benefits, and feasibility of actions to expand the scope of federal statistical products to include the territories.

GAO said accurate and robust federal statistics could help territorial and federal officials better understand the implications of and potential solutions to various challenges that U.S. territories face.

GAO recommended that the director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget ensure that the U.S. chief statistician develops a coordinated, government-wide approach for federal statistical agencies to use, in consultation with the U.S. territories and other stakeholders, to examine the costs, benefits, and feasibility of including territories in statistical products and, as appropriate, identify ways to address any data gaps.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Francisco Pangelinan Rosario

Better known as "Ankie"

Born to Life on January 31, 1953 | Born to Eternal Life on May 7, 2024

In his new life he now joins his:
Wife: †Nicolasa Maria Cepeda Deleon Guerrero Rosario
Son: †Vince Larry Deleon Guerrero Rosario
Grandson: †Vince Larry Deleon Guerrero Rosario II
Father: †Vicente Taitano Rosario
Mother: †Manuela Santos Pangelinan Rosario
Brother: †Pedro Pangelinan Rosario
Sisters: †Mary Gail Rosario Cruz
†Patricia Pangelinan Rosario
Nephew: †Ryan Cruz
Father In-Law: †Alfonso Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero
Mother In-Law: †Isabel Agulto Cepeda Deleon Guerrero
Brother In-Law: †Augustin C. Deleon Guerrero
Sister In-Law: †Agnes Pangelinan Deleon Guerrero

His loving memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren:
†**Vince Larry DLG.** & Jennifer C. Rosario
Jennivee Nikita C. Rosario
Vince Larry
Kaila Nicolasa
Kayla R. & Charles Punzalan
Vinika Jae
Franceine Phylicia C. Rosario
Elizabeth Nella DLG. Rosario & Jayson C. John
Nikki Jaliza R. John
Francisco P. Rosario II & Venetia S. Rosario
Francisco P. Rosario III
Frankie Nicolasa S. Rosario
Franko LJ S. Rosario
Austin Nick DLG. & Jasmine M. Rosario
Joysidine F. Mendiola
Jyan Vince M. Rosario
J'Taedyn Oztyn M. Rosario

Reared Children:
Evelyn Tomokane & Family
Esteban Cabrera & Family

Special Family:
Loida Delos Santos & Mario Echaure
Mark Christopher
Michael Joseph

Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws
JOSEPH P./Keko A. Rosario & Children
TRINIDAD R./Niksy Berdon & Children
DWAYNE P./Karen Rosario & Children
ANTHONY P./Mona DLG. Rosario & Children
ROSE R./Chris Nicklaw & Children
MARIE R./Andrew Certeza & Children
JESSE P./Jean Rosario & Children
†MARY GAIL R./Fred Cruz & Children

Brother & Sister In-Laws:
Dolores DLG./Jesus T. Sablan & Children
Juan C. Deleon Guerrero/Mae Salas & Children
Adelbert C./Emy Deleon Guerrero & Children
Francisco C./Raquel Deleon Guerrero & Children
Reynaldo C./Augusta Deleon Guerrero & Children
†Augustin C./Benedicta Deleon Guerrero & Children
Francisca DLG./Jesus C. Pinaula & Children
Lorenzo C./Teresita Deleon Guerrero & Children

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00 AM at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

On Wednesday, May 15, 2024, our beloved will be leaving Borja Funeral Homes at 7:45 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso will be recited 8:00 a.m., followed by Public Viewing. Christian Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m., followed by Christian Burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow and Thank you

Elizabeth, Francisco II, Austin and Family

FESTPAC

From page 2

of their food lodging, transportation, and accommodation."

Both admitted they're not included in the 100-member delegation.

"We prioritize the artists and our ambassadors, so we are kind of like on the edge, but we'll figure ourselves out, but it's okay, as long as our 100 are taken care of."

Teuira and Sablan added that they still also need to provide everyday needs like first aid kits and water for the delegation and since there are 10 different locations across Hawaii for the event, transportation for officials to the sites are also needed.

"We are trying to see how to make things more efficient and still take care of our delegation in Hawaii," said Teuira.

Sablan said that along with the airfare, they are required to bring gifts to the host, organizers, and each of the 28 countries participating, as well as pay for the delegation's uniforms, banners, and flags.

Teuira said that she's been thinking of conducting a coin drive since that was pretty successful in the past and said if everyone in the community gave even just $2 each that could potentially cover all their needs.

Both Teuira and Sablan hope to see more sponsorships and funding come in as well and shared their appreciation to those in the community who have joined to help in any way they can.

Upcoming UOG workshop to focus on avocado production

UOG

Teresa Cruz, left, and Katherine Day practice the propagation technique of air layering at a fruit production workshop on March 9 at the University of Guam's agricultural research station in Yigo. The university will be hosting an Avocado Production Workshop on Saturday, June 1.

Tips and techniques for bountiful avocado production will be the topic of an upcoming public workshop being offered by the University of Guam's Land Grant researchers and extension agents. The workshop is free and open to the first 25 participants to register.

Avocado Production Workshop

- Time: 9am-noon
- Date: Saturday, June 1
- Location: Yigo Research & Education Center (Triton Farm)

Participants will learn from UOG extension horticulturalists how to propagate avocado trees by grafting, about avocado tree scions that are available from UOG, how to care for an avocado tree, and how to market avocado to the public. Participants will also take a tour of avocado trees on the Triton Farm property and learn about the fruit's nutritional value.

UOG

University of Guam agriculture majors Charlene Badajos and Francisco "Kiko" Blaz harvest eggfruit during a fruit production workshop held on March 9 at UOG's agricultural research station in Yigo. The university will be hosting an Avocado Production Workshop on Saturday, June 1.

The workshop will be the last to be offered under UOG's Beginning Farmer & Rancher Development Program grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The grant has made multiple workshops possible over the past four years on the production of hot peppers, papaya, mango, honey, eggfruit, peanut butter fruit, mulberry, and Surinam cherries. Guidance and publications on these topics can be obtained by emailing cnasteam@triton.uog.edu.

To register, contact Glenda Hall at (671) 735-2062 or ghall@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

Leiseschangmwar Rangamar Iguel
Kwajalein Ave., Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 500912
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 788-2128
Email: lriguel@gmail.com
Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	:	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0004**
JOSE LANIYO PUA, Deceased,	:	**NOTICE OF PETITION TO APPOINT SUBSTITUTE ADMINISTRATIX AND FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION**
	:	**Date: May 16, 2024**
	:	**Time: 10 a.m.**
	:	**Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho**

TO: ALL HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, AND CREDITORS OF JOSE LANIYO PUA, DECEASED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner Leiseschangmwar R. Iguel has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition to Appoint Substitute Administratrix and for Letters of Administration in the above-captioned matter.

The petition is set for a hearing at 10 a.m. on May 16, 2024, at the CNMI Superior Court, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any person who has any objection to the petition may file his or her objection with the Superior Court at any time before the hearing to present such objection or interest in the above captioned matter.

Creditors and all persons having claims against the Decedent or of his estate are hereby notified that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2024.

/s/ _____
Clerk of Court

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) NMHC IFB 2024-006

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

Marianas High-School Career Technical Education Center Construction Project

BID SUBMISSION DATE: June 14, 2024, 2:00 p.m.

Project Package will be available on April 30, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

The project is funded through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the CNMI Office of the Governor, Public Assistance Office (PAO). EDA and HUD funding will be utilized for the superstructure and site improvements.

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **May 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

Buckle YOURSELF In
So THEY Don't Have To
CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT
CLICK IT. DON'T RISK IT.
NHTSA
For more information call CNMI Department of Public Safety
SAIPAN 664-9125/9084/85 | TINIAN 433-9222/2041 | ROTA 532-9433/9350
www.dps.gov.mp
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 95

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Of course the death penalty is racist. And it would be wrong even if it weren't

Civil rights organizations and defense attorneys last month asked the California Supreme Court to invalidate the death penalty in this state for being irredeemably racist. Around the same time, Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price announced that a federal judge had ordered her to review 35 cases her office had handled over the last three decades after she discovered evidence that prosecutors systematically excluded Black and Jewish people from juries hearing capital cases.

As written, death penalty laws are race-neutral. Is the death penalty racist?

Of course it is. Evidence and experience show racial bias at play at every level of the criminal justice system, from arrest to jury selection to verdict. The disparities are particularly glaring in death sentences. Black defendants were 4.6 to 8.7 times more likely to be sentenced to death than other defendants facing similar charges, according to a landmark study of thousands of murder and manslaughter convictions dating to 1978. Latinos were 3.2 to 6.2 times more likely to be sentenced to death.

The disparity is even larger when the defendant was Black or Latino and the victim was white or Asian.

All of this is documented, but it is also intuitive, after years of evidence showing Black and Latino people being arrested more often and sentenced to longer prison terms than white people for the same crimes. It stands to reason that the same biases would show up in death sentences. The apparent exclusion of Black and Jewish people from Alameda County juries is surprising only because evidence of it surfaced.

The Supreme Court petition contains voluminous data regarding racial bias in California's capital punishment system.

But in a sense, that's all beside the point.

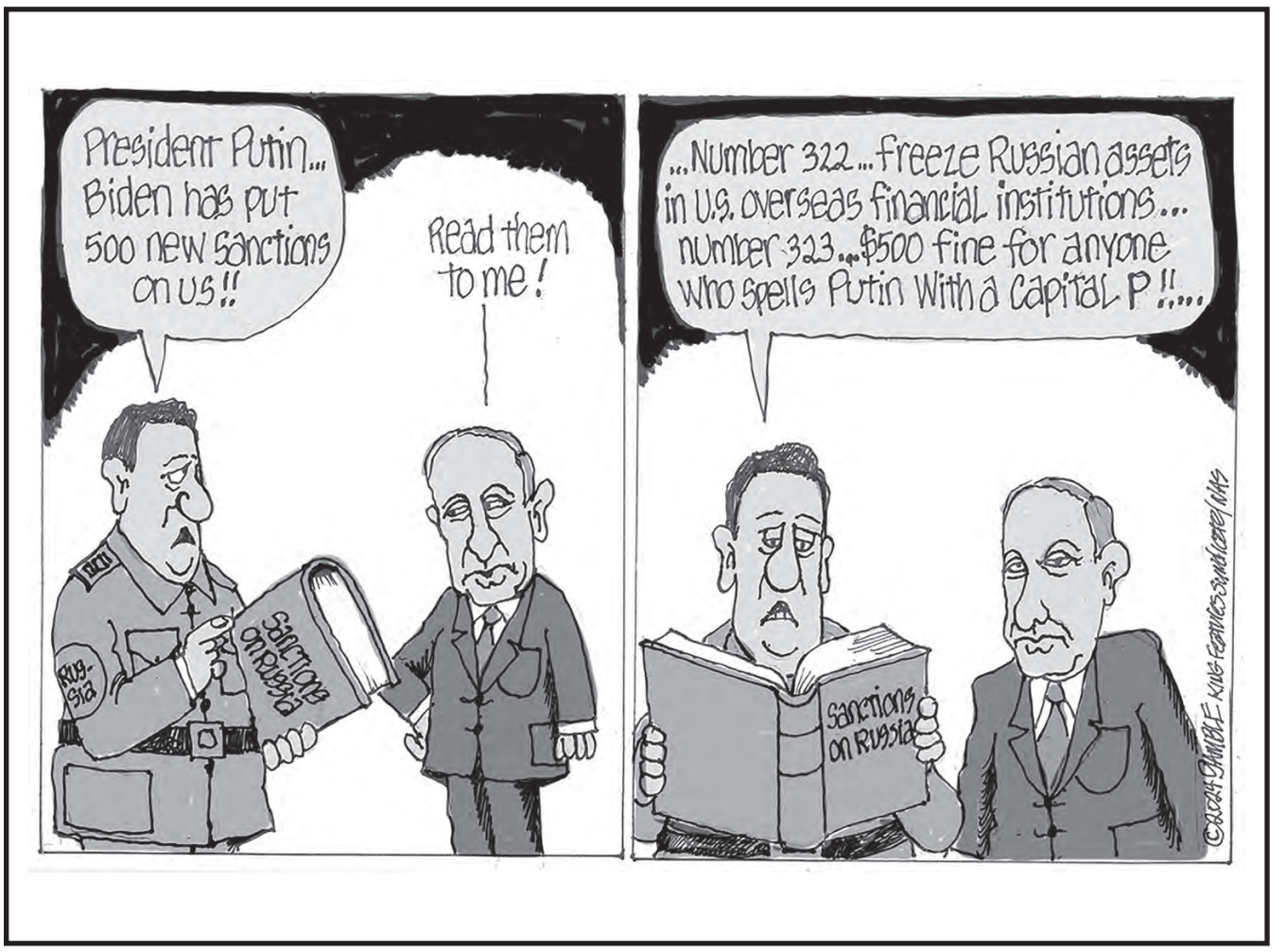
The death penalty has been challenged on other grounds, for example because the various drugs and other instruments of execution inflict unconstitutional levels of pain and suffering. But that too is beside the point.

Even if the state could perform painless and anxiety-free executions and racial biases were eliminated, the death penalty would still be wrong.

It's wrong because it puts too much power in the hands of government. Individual government agents, such as police officers, sometimes must exercise deadly force for the protection of others during fast-paced crises, but there is no such justification for carefully planned and premeditated state homicide.

It's wrong because it's applied arbitrarily and is overtly political. Consider the statements and actions of former President Trump, who called for the death penalty for drug dealers in 2018, then pardoned convicted drug dealer Alice Johnson in 2020 after her cause was taken up by Kim Kardashian, and now is again demanding execution for drug dealers. Consid-

See PENALTY on Page 7


President Putin... Biden has put 500 new sanctions on us!!
Read them to me!
Sanctions on Russia
...Number 322...freeze Russian assets in U.S. overseas financial institutions... number 323...$500 fine for anyone who spells Putin With a Capital P!!...
Sanctions on Russia
©2024 CHARLES KNOX FARMERSVILLE/KNOX

Since the Hamas attack, Israelis have begun arming themselves the American way

By JONATHAN M. METZL
Los Angeles Times

Jonathan M. Metzl (@jonathanmetzl) directs the department of medicine, health and society at Vanderbilt University and is the author, most recently, of " What We've Become: Living and Dying in a Country of Arms." This article was produced in partnership with Zócalo Public Square.

Among the core Israeli national narratives that have been fractured by the Hamas terror attacks and months of war and violence is the notion that Israel's ethos on firearms differs from that of the United States.

Both countries can be characterized as gun-centric democracies, but according to the Israeli narrative, the U.S. is a land of too many guns and too few laws, while Israelis "trust their state, and don't fear each other." A common refrain emphasizes that in Israel, bearing arms isn't a right, it's a privilege.

After Oct. 7, in a shockingly fast turnaround, that privilege became, if not a right, an imperative. In changing Israel's relationship with firearms, Benjamin Netanyahu's government is also changing the nation in ways that could have profound and lasting implications.

I have spent more than a decade collaborating with Israeli public health scholars and safety activists to better understand how a country with many guns could see only a fraction of U.S. civilian gun deaths.

Partner shootings, homicides, gun suicides, accidental shootings and mass shootings have been remarkably low in Israel in part because the government banned assault rifles for private citizens and issued handgun permits only after an extensive vetting process.

Effective gun laws reinforced social cohesion. If Americans carry guns based on individualized notions of self-protection, Israelis consider gun ownership a shared responsibility, and when gun policy comes up, they will explicitly say they "don't want to be like the U.S."

But like many national narratives, Israel's gun scripts are partly myth. Armed settlers in the West Bank have recklessly intimidated and harassed Palestinians. A robust contraband arms market flourished in smaller cities, and the victims of those guns were overwhelmingly Arab citizens of Israel.

Still, American researchers like me could view Israeli's gun safety efforts as a model of successful public policy.

Now that model is at risk. Hamas' kidnapping and slaughter of Israelis represents a catastrophic failure of state protection. It has tapped into deep national fears about being Jewish, vulnerable and exposed.

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir—an incendiary Jewish supremacist once expelled from army service because of radicalism—has seized the moment. Prior to the Hamas attacks, he tried to weaken gun permit regulations and ease carry rights, but his arguments failed to gain traction. Now, however, he and his allies have managed to fast-track legislation that has generated an unprecedented spike in armed Jewish civilians.

"Carry a Gun, It's a Life-saver: Ben-Gvir and His Wife Boast of Dramatic Expansion in Israelis Carrying Weapons" read a headline in Haaretz on Oct. 22.

Within a week of the attack, the Netanyahu government was purchasing and distributing thousands of firearms. Contentious Knesset oversight committee meetings detailed how dozens of unqualified people — including Ben Gvir's personal staff appointees — had been granted temporary authority to approve gun license applications. In March, according to Haaretz, Ben-Gvir celebrated the issuance of 100,000 new permits in five months.

It's understandable that gun sales to civilians spike in times of peril. Guns provide real protection in some instances, and the promise of protection in others. And yet, gun safety and security are never as straightforward as the NRA's "good guys" versus "bad guys" binary makes it seem. Armed civilians rarely prevent crimes such as mass shootings. Potential security benefits to arming civilians are often counterbalanced by rising everyday gun-related injury and death.

Gun ownership can make people wary of governments and regulations, and gun politics can also be tribalizing, divisive, even antidemocratic.

After the death of George Floyd and amid the pandemic in 2020, people's fears, sometimes fed by conspiracy theories, pushed gun sales to record highs. Gun sellers could exploit white anxiety about Black violence and the anxieties of Black and Latino populations as well. Meanwhile, pro-gun courts in the U.S. have been overturning firearm safety laws put in place by state or local legislatures and voters.

See SINCE on Page 7

America's 250th is worthy of celebration—and unity

By DAVID J. BOBB
The Fulcrum

It is hard to imagine Americans afraid to celebrate America. But as our nation's 250th birthday approaches in 2026, there is already some nervous hand-wringing about how citizens should respond.

Should the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence be a time of celebration, a period of atonement for the uglier aspects of our history or a little bit of both?

It is a problem The New York Times saw coming in July 2023, when it looked at the difficulty of crafting a unifying national message "when fighting about American history seems to be the real national pastime." An article in Time Magazine similarly warned us to "get ready for controversy."

But what if America's 250th birthday became a unifying time for our nation, instead of the latest battle in the ongoing history wars?

Marking this historic milestone does not need to be a false, binary choice between untamed jingoism and self-loathing. We can acknowledge both the positive and negative aspects of our national history, while celebrating America's ongoing journey toward the realization of its ideals.

When the Declaration of Independence embedded principles like equality and liberty into the foundation of our nation, Americans did not become equal and liberated overnight.

Rather, the Declaration of Independence launched a journey and established a standard that made progress toward the goals of equality and liberty possible.

Ugly aspects of our history like slavery, Jim Crow, and denying women the right to vote make clear America has not always lived up to its principles.

But in each of those cases, the standards established at our nation's founding became a rallying cry for progress.

Leaders such as Frederick Douglass and Martin Luther King Jr. called for America to live up to its promises as part of the abolition and civil rights movements. Douglass believed equality and liberty were "saving principles."

In fact, the women's suffrage movement repeatedly invoked the founding principles of equality and liberty to argue for equal access to the ballot box.

At the heart of our American experiment is the recognition that we have a standard that we need to live up to. This recognition has meant that we are on a journey to more perfectly realize the promise of equality and liberty expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

While we have too often failed to live up to our standards, we can celebrate the progress we have made.

We have a free press providing our citizens with independent sources of information. Our press can and does hold local, state and national leaders to account, with protection from government reprisal.

The United States was one of just 35 countries to receive the highest "open" ranking in the 2023 Global Expression Report, which measures nations' commitments to free expression. Conversely, 86 nations were ranked as restricted, highly restricted or in crisis. People of every faith gather freely in houses of worship across our country without fear of government persecution. Or, they exercise their right to practice no religion at all.

America's journey has not been perfect, but our end goal—the full realization of equality and liberty for all people—is perfect. Keeping that destination in our sights requires constant reflection and, at times, course corrections.

We have done this work throughout our history, and we must continue to do so.

But we can take pride in the journey we collectively embarked upon as Americans.

And as we prepare for America's 250th birthday, we can celebrate the founding principles that established a framework for both our journey and our progress.

By DAVID J. BOBB
The Fulcrum

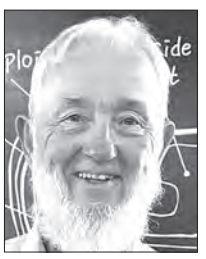
Bobb is president and CEO of the Bill of Rights Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advances civic and history education.

G.U.N.S. B.O.M.B.S. Mothers and W.A.R.S.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. Joey is the Poet Laureate of Tinian, celebrating 40 years in the CNMI.



G.U.N.S. Gaza Ukraine Need Solace
B.O.M.B.S. Bring Out Mankind's Brutal Side
W.A.R.S. Witness All Reality. We Are Responsible.
Mothers live and die in all wartorn countries
Mothers give birth and their children die in wars
Mothers mourn over 60 thousand dead children in Gaza
Mothers mourn more than 300 thousand dead Russian soldiers
Mothers mourn unreported numbers of dead Ukraine soldiers
More than a million Ukraine mothers and children fled to Poland
Mothers and adult children flee Russian military conscription
Mothers fear and weep tears. Mothers shed many tears.
W.A.R. War Always Repeating. World Always Repeats.
W.A.R. We Are Responsible. We're all Responsible.
W.A.R. We Are Rotting. We All Rot. We Are Reality.

Author's note: the number of dead in the Ukraine /Russian war, and the Gaza/Israel war changes daily, weekly, monthly. It depends on who is providing the body counts. Governments tend to under-report the number of dead. The Red Cross, the United Nations, and other institutions estimates vary in their numbers.The above is a prose poem fusion using caustic acronym hymns in a sonnet form to present a modern-day maternal dirge.

SINCE

From page 6

The Middle East represents a profoundly different context. But Netanyahu's government is doing more than responding to the traumatic chaos of the Hamas attacks by adopting U.S. gun laws: Ben Gvir's gun policies paper over security lapses, weaken trust in democratic institutions, exacerbate divides and will do little to make anyone safer.

For instance, Israeli data show that shockingly few terror attacks are stopped by civilians with guns, and yet the government insists otherwise. Armed civilians, said Netanyahu, "save lives." He initially shrugged off an incident in which a "hero" armed civilian, who had indeed stopped a deadly terrorist attack, was then himself shot to death in the chaos. "We might have to pay prices," Netanyahu said, "but that's life."

It's likely that disproportionate numbers of the newly distributed guns are ending up in the hands of supporters of Netanyahu's conservative/religious coalition. Armed Jewish security squads have formed in mixed cities where both Jewish and Palestinian Israeli citizens live. Violence against Palestinians has escalated in the West Bank, where members of Jewish settler groups have long been allowed to carry weapons, while Palestinians have not.

What does it mean for Israel to so rapidly adopt American-style armed individualism?

In conversations last fall, Israeli Jewish and Palestinian clinicians, journalists, gun safety advocates and academics told me they'd been shattered by the Hamas attack and the plight of hostages. They understood their countrymen's desire for firearms. At the same time, no one could believe how many guns were flooding in.

"People we never imagined are lining up for permits and carrying guns," one activist said during a group Zoom conversation. Others on the call chimed in. "My husband." "My grocer." "My father-in-law." "Me."

Being "like the U.S." emerged as a source of disquiet. One activist who lives in a Tel Aviv suburb spoke as sirens rang in the background. How long after the Gaza war ends, he wondered, "will it take until we see our first American-style mass shooting?"

An ER doctor told a story about bickering neighbors holding up guns mid-argument. She asked a question that months before would have been unimaginable: "Do you think U.S. gun safety groups might be willing to take up our cause?"

The "gun drive is running roughshod over democratic procedures," a leading peace activist said, with "rising authoritarianism" and "a trajectory of increasingly violent police responses against antiwar protesters."

Later, as the human catastrophe in Gaza spiraled, another activist asked, "What violence is being done in our name?"

By January, with protests against the war accelerating, a journalist wondered whether disarmament would be possible, with Israelis "under siege, not just by our enemies but also by the supposedly liberal, modern people in the West who we thought we were part of." Would it be possible to imagine or "do peace"?

The proliferation of guns in Israel that began as a response to an external threat has become an enforcer of expansive internal agendas. "I don't really think Ben-Gvir wants Israelis to feel safe," a Palestinian Israeli lawyer explained. "He wants settlers and crazies to intimidate others."

The gun safety movement is mobilized in opposition, but however its efforts evolve, the decisions Israel has already made about guns could go a long way toward shaping the future of the nation.

Perhaps the country will overturn Ben-Gvir's disastrous gun policies and begin the hard work of countering their polarizing health, social and political effects. Such an approach would require regional stability, and the renewal of what Haaretz calls "the contract between state and citizen."

Or Israel could remain a fortress, its people adopting "stand your ground" self-defensiveness and arming themselves in ever more anticipation of real and speculative threats.

If I've learned anything from studying gun politics in the U.S., it's that an armed and internally divided nation is less able to negotiate, effectively legislate or meaningfully compromise.

PENALTY

From page 6

er President Biden, who as a candidate promised to end capital punishment in federal cases but whose Justice Department nevertheless continues to seek death sentences.

It's wrong because juries that are qualified to hear arguments and weigh evidence to determine guilt are not qualified — nor is anyone — to weigh non-tangibles such as moral worth, or to choose between life or death without improper emotional considerations. The fact that they do so is legally permissible yet morally unconscionable.

The death penalty is wrong even when it is not imposed, because prosecutors use the mere possibility of execution to pressure defendants into pleading guilty and accepting life sentences — even if they are innocent. It's wrong because prosecutors "death qualify" juries at the beginning of proceedings by excluding anyone who may have qualms about execution, and because prosecutors are trained to use dehumanizing language ("monster," "animal") when trying to get juries to choose death. Even if a death-qualified jury instead chooses life in prison, the same qualities that made jurors open to a death sentence may also have made them more likely to convict.

And sometimes those convictions are in error. Seven Californians sentenced to death since 1973 were later exonerated. The Death Penalty Information Center names 20 people put to death in Southern and border states since 1989 who may well have been innocent.

Americans who favor capital punishment generally want it to be imposed, if at all, without factual error, pain, politics, prosecutorial overreach or racial bias. But that's just fantasy. The death penalty is inextricably bound up with each of those ills, and more.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom promised that no one would be put to death on his watch, and he ordered that death row and the execution chamber be dismantled. But capital punishment remains on the books in California, and district attorneys continue to use it to unjustly wring guilty pleas from defendants, or to toughen juries by death-qualifying them (although some, including George Gascón of Los Angeles and Jeff Rosen of Santa Clara County, no longer do, and are seeking to reverse death sentences).

The petitioners who cite racism in California death sentences are correct, and they deserve credit for identifying an angle of attack that not only is righteous but also just may work. The tragedy is that it's necessary for them to do it. The death penalty is morally repugnant and manifestly unjust, even without the long and ample record of racism in its application.

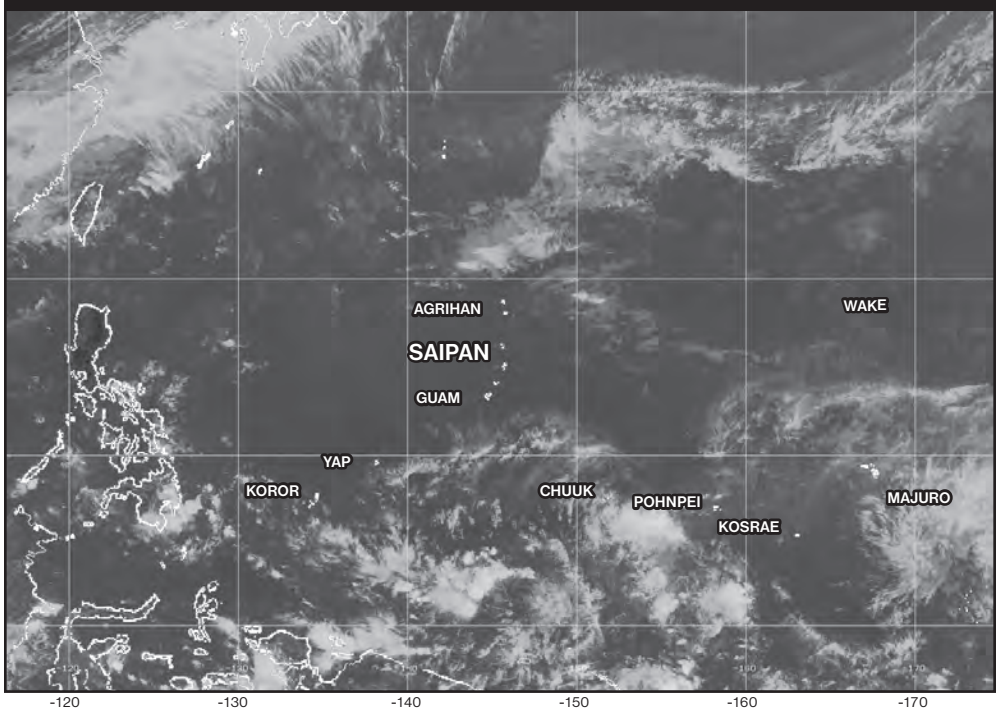
©2024 Los Angeles Times.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:11 AM SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery this morning shows partly cloudy skies and spotty showers across Guam and the CNMI. Winds are gentle to moderate, with combined seas around 4 to 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	10:11 AM	11:38 PM	-
Tuesday	11:06 AM	-	-
Wednesday	-	12:21 AM	11:59 AM
Thursday	-	1:00 AM	12:48 PM
Friday	-	1:36 AM	1:35 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°
Beijing	Fair	80° / 53°
Hong Kong	Fair	85° / 76°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 70°
London	Partly Cloudy	59° / 43°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 58°
Manila	Fair	95° / 82°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	55° / 45°
Miami	Windy	80° / 75°
New York	Cloudy	61° / 48°
Osaka	Sunny	75° / 57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	61° / 45°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 61°
Rome	Sunny	79° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	77° / 53°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 51°
Seoul	Fair	71° / 51°
Tokyo	Cloudy	76° / 65°
Washington, DC	Light Rain with Thunder	66° / 48°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:48 AM	Low Tide	1.90
6:07 AM	High Tide	1.44
9:58 AM	Low Tide	1.72
5:52 PM	High Tide	-0.02

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest finalists announced

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Video category winners, from left, U.S. District of the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Chief, third place the team of Eva Lizunova, Linda Li, and Nikki Qiu from Saipan International School, first place team of Misha Kim from Saipan International School and Ayung Lee from Mt. Carmel School, second place team of Jeongbin Park, Keylie Claveria, and Zi Hao Zhou from Saipan International School, and Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

All awardees with U.S. District of the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona and Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, U.S. District of the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona, third place essay winner Trixia Jhoanne Singca from Marianas High School, Top 10 awardees Jia Ross Nicdao from Marianas High School, Zi Ting Wu, Joshua Yoo, Dong Hyun Lee from Saipan International School, first place essay winner Irene Park from Saipan International School, second place essay winner Gwanpil Son from Marianas High School, Top 10 awardee Jhaylin Cruz from Marianas High School, and Magistrate JudgeHeather Kennedy. (Not in photo are Top 10 awardees Shuang Zhao from Marianas High School and Moshe Sikkel from Saipan International School).

SAN FRANCISCO—Federal judicial districts throughout the Ninth Circuit have selected their local civics contest winners who will advance as finalists in the preliminary round of the 2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest. Forty-two essays and 31 videos are up for consideration to be the next top winners at the circuit level contest. The circuit received 737 essays and 88 video entries.

"70 Years Later—The Legacy of Brown v. Board of Education" was the theme of the civics contest. In addressing the theme, students were asked to discuss the impact they think Brown has had and why. The contest was open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private, parochial and charter schools, and homeschooled students of equivalent grade status, in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington state, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Judging panel members are now reviewing and scoring the essays and videos that advanced to the preliminary round of the Ninth Circuit civics contest. The Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee, composed of judges, court executives and attorneys, will determine the final winners of the contest. PICO is responsible for determining the theme and organizing the contest with support from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the 15 federal judicial districts that comprise the Ninth Circuit.

First-place winners at the circuit level will be invited to attend the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference, and a total of $11,400 in cash prizes will be awarded to the top three essay and video winners. First place cash prize in each category is $3,000, second place is $1,700 and third place is $1,000. If the winners of the video portion of the contest are part of a team, then they will split the total cash prize.

Circuit winners will be announced on the contest website https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest/ in June. District winners are listed in the following pages.

Below are the names of students from each district who are advancing to the next round of the competition at the circuit level.

District of Alaska

Essay Winner: First place ($1,000) – Manning Zhang, West Anchorage High School, Anchorage.

District of Arizona

Essay Winners: First place ($1,500) – Akshita Khanna, BASIS Phoenix, Phoenix; Second place ($750) – Prisha Yelamanchili, BASIS Chandler, Chandler; and Third place ($500) – Chloe Moore, Desert Vista High School, Phoenix.

Video Winners: First place (Total of $1,500) – the team of Aayush Shah, Mihir Sahani and Vivan Patel, BASIS Chandler; Second place ($750) – Anthony Baltazar, Desert Ridge High School, Mesa; and Third place ($500) – Christine Vuong, Mesa High School, Mesa.

Central District of California

Essay Winners: First place ($1,000) – Justina Liu, Arcadia High School, Arcadia; Second place ($750) – Michael Isayan, North Hollywood High School, North Hollywood; and Third place ($500) – Aston Kwon, Northwood High School, Irvine.

Video Winners: First place ($1,000) – Katelyn Cheng, Westlake Village; Second place (Total of $750) – the team of Chidike Nwankwo, Jayden Mendoza and Chidinma Ojinmah, Norte Vista High School, Riverside; and (Total of $500) – the team of Gael Garivay, Roberto Vega- Alarcon and Antoine Cueller-Morgan, Azusa High School, Azusa.

The Central District is also inviting their first-place winners and their parent/guardian to attend the 2024 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Eastern District of California

Essay Winners: First place – Joshua Yang, El Camino Fundamental High School, Sacramento; Second place – Michael Reynoso, El Camino Fundamental High School; and Third place – Brysan Polhemus, El Camino Fundamental High School.

Northern District of California

Essay Winners: First place ($2,000) – Jia Aggarwal, Dublin High School, Dublin; Second place ($1,500) – Shaan Singh, San Leandro High School, San Leandro; and Third place ($1,000) – Karthik Subramanian, American High School, Fremont.

Video Winners: First place ($2,000) – Julia Karsner, Castilleja School, Palo Alto; and Second place (Total of $1,500) – the team of Isabel Sonneborn, Marguerite Walden-Kaufman and Hadassah Krieger, San Rafael High School, San Rafael.

Southern District of California

Essay Winners: First place ($1,000) – Raine Wen, Mt. Carmel High School, San Diego; Second place ($500) – Natalie Amir-Lobel, La Jolla Country Day School, San Diego; and Third place ($250) – Daniel Palacios, Mt. Carmel High School.

Video Winners: First place ($1,000) – Eva Tieu, Hoover High School, San Diego; Second place (Total of $500) – the team of Tyler Maula and Diego Contreras, Bonita Vista High School, Chula Vista; and Third place ($250) – Marcos Hernandez, Hoover High School, San Diego.

District of Guam

Essay Winners: First place ($300) – Vance Meno, Father Duenas Memorial School, Chalan-Pago-Ordot; Second place ($200) – Mariana Castro, St. John's School, Upper Tumon; and Third place ($100) – Angel Samaniego, Simon Sanchez High School, Tamuning.

Video Winners: First place (Total of $300) – the team of Samantha Pascua and Arianna Cadiz, Simon Sanchez High School, Yigo.

District of Hawaii

Essay Winners: First place ($1,500) – Peter Vahsen, Kaiser High School, Honolulu; Second place ($750) – Tiffany Ishida, 'Iolani School, Honolulu; and Third place ($500) – Colbie Bell, 'Iolani School.

Video Winners: First place ($1,500) – Teah Simon, 'Iolani School, Honolulu; and Second place (Total of $750) – the team of Zuri Pagel, Tezeru Kapfer and Soraya Nasseghandi, Kaiser High School.

District of Idaho

Essay Winners: First place ($1,000) – Max Pieper, Second place ($500) – Addie Branen and Third place ($250) – Dylan Taylor. All students are from Moscow High School in Moscow.

Video Winners: First place ($1,000) – Jacob Nunez, Post Falls High School, Post Falls; Second place ($500) – Kate Raley, Boise High School, Boise; and Third place ($250) – Kira Sherman, Post Falls High School.

District of Montana

Essay Winners: First place ($2,000) – Skylar Pinsondumm, Sentinel High School, Missoula; Second place ($1,000) – Emma Cashell, Corvallis High School, Corvallis; and Third place ($500) – Tayler Wolf, Dawson County High School, Glendive.

Video Winners: First place ($2,250) – Trinity Nicholson, Foothills Community Christian School, Great Falls; and Second place ($1,250) – Kimber Koteskey, Foothills Community Christian School. The $500 prize for a third-place winner was equally distributed to the first- and second-place winners since the district did not have a third-place winner.

District of Nevada

Essay Winners: First place ($1,500) – Auri Fernandez, Incline High School, Incline Village; Second place ($850) – Jamie Arevalo, West Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas; and Third place ($500) – Aeron Pearson, Southwest Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas.

Video Winners: First place (Total of $1,500) – the team of Vanessa Lei, Hannah Vuong and Joan Li, West Career and Technical Academy; Second place ($850) – Grace Li, West Career and Technical Academy; and Third place ($500) – Evelyn Wu, Southwest Career and Technical Academy.

District of Northern Mariana Islands

Essay Winners: First place ($200) – Irene Park, Saipan International School, Chalan Kanoa; Second place ($150) – Gwanpil Son, Marianas High School, Susupe; and Third place ($100) – Trixia Jhoanne Singca, Marianas High School.

Video Winners: First place (Total of $200) – the team of Misha Kim and Ayung Lee; Second place (Total of $150) – the team of Jeongbin Park, Keylie Claveria and Zi Hao Zhou; and Third place (Total of $100) – Eva Lizunova, Linda Li and Nikki Qiu. All students are from Saipan International School.

District of Oregon

Local winners in the District of Oregon will receive cash prizes to be determined by the district.

Essay Winners: First place – Colin Williams, Charles A. Sprague High School, Salem; Second place – Dorothy Cui, Lincoln High School, Portland; and Third place – Matthew Meyers, Charles A. Sprague High School.

Video Winners: First place – the team of Colin Williams and Matthew Meyers, Charles A. Sprague High School; Second place – Ruby Kara, Milwaukie Academy of the Arts, Milwaukie; and Third place – Asher Lee, Sabin-Schellenberg Professional Technical Center, Milwaukie.

Eastern District of Washington

The Eastern District of Washington selected a total of three winners, in essay and video categories combined.

Winners: First place (Total of $1,000) – the team of Luke Blue and Eleanor Weitz for their video entry, Mt. Spokane High School, Mead; Second place ($500) – Autumn Kern, essay entry, Mt. Spokane High School; and Third place ($250) – Klara Hulick, essay entry, Hanford High School, Richland.

Western District of Washington

Essay Winners: First place ($1,000) – Addison Wooster, Kingston High School, Kingston; Second place ($750) – Havah Alcorn, Gibson EK High School, Issaquah; and Third place ($500) – Isaiah Sinclaire, Homeschool, Everett.

Video Winner: First place ($1,000) – Shreya Damodaran, Lake Washington High School, Kirkland. ***(PR)***

Business

MARK RABAGO

All variations of the totally redesigned 2024 Toyota Tacoma on parade on Saipan during its official launch at the Marianas Business Plaza last May 4.

Atkins Kroll introduces the all-new redesigned 2024 Tacoma

» Setting standard for dependability, quality on Saipan

Toyota is thrilled to announce the launch of the highly anticipated 2024 Toyota Tacoma on Saipan, marking a new era of excellence in the truck industry. Renowned as the top-selling truck on Saipan, the redesigned Tacoma promises unparalleled reliability, dependability, and unmatched quality for drivers across the island.

The official launch event took place last May 4 at the Marianas Business Plaza, where Toyota showcased the 2024 Tacoma in all its glory. The event featured a spectacular truck show and a lively Taco eating contest, captivating the audience with the Tacoma's remarkable capabilities and celebrating its arrival in style.

MARK RABAGO

Old models of the durable and stylish Toyota Tacoma also shared the spotlight during the May 4 launch event.

MARK RABAGO

Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc. general manager Clark Boswell, right, on stage during the 2024 Toyota Tacoma launch event with AK (Saipan) Sales manager Kevin Barnes.

"Our team is ecstatic to unveil the all-new 2024 Toyota Tacoma to the CNMI," said Clark Boswell, general manager of Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc. at the launch event. "This momentous occasion represents a significant milestone for us, and we couldn't be more excited to introduce this exceptional truck to the people of Saipan."

Combining cutting-edge innovation with Toyota's legendary craftsmanship, the 2024 Tacoma is engineered to conquer every terrain with confidence, making it the ultimate companion for both work and play on Saipan. Whether navigating Beach Road or driving off the beaten path, the Tacoma's robust performance and unwavering durability ensure a seamless driving experience in every journey.

"Our commitment to delivering exceptional vehicles tailored to the unique needs of our customers on Saipan is unwavering," continued Boswell. "The 2024 Tacoma represents the pinnacle of our dedication to quality, reliability, and innovation, setting a new benchmark for trucks on Saipan."

With its bold exterior design and refined interior features, the 2024 Tacoma exudes a commanding presence on Saipan's roads, while offering unparalleled comfort and convenience for both drivers and passengers. From advanced safety technologies to state-of-the-art entertainment systems, every aspect of the Tacoma is meticulously crafted to elevate the driving experience to new heights.

"As the top-selling truck on Saipan, the Tacoma has earned the trust and loyalty of drivers who demand nothing but the best," added Boswell. "With the arrival of the all-new 2024 Tacoma, we are proud to reaffirm our commitment to excellence and continue our legacy of delivering vehicles that exceed expectations."

Saipan is Tacoma Territory, and the 2024 Toyota Tacoma stands as a testament to Toyota's enduring legacy of innovation and performance. Now available for sale at Atkins Kroll, the 2024 Tacoma invites drivers to experience the ultimate blend of reliability, dependability, and quality that only Toyota can deliver. ***(PR)***

A JUBILANT HEART, A DANCING SOUL

†Juan
Sablan Salas

March 06, 1959 – May 03, 2024

Born on March 06, 1959, and sailed to his new home with our Heavenly Father on Friday, May 03, 2024 at the age of 65. Throughout his lifetime, †Juan, (fondly known to many as "John") was very caring, kind, supportive, cheerful and most of all a loving husband, brother, uncle and cousin to his family.

He was loved by many and to those whom he has crossed paths, he left a legacy of a man respectable and honorable. John also served in the Marines right after high school before returning back home to Saipan. He dedicated most of his lifetime working as Wildlife Specialist in the CNMI, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Community & Cultural Affairs as a Historic Preservation Specialist and eventually retired. John was passionate about nature, wildlife and the outdoors in general. He shared many stories of his work- ventures to the Northern Islands, sharing that his favorite one was Sarigan. He loved raising chickens and roosters. Wood working became a hobby. One thing John loved the most was his family and his good friends, many who he considered another brother. He was a gentle man, joyful, friendly, helpful and never hesitated to lend a helping hand even if it was to a stranger.

John's love and memories will forever live in the hearts of his loving wife Frances "Frannie" Torres-Salas.

His parents: Antonio Taitano Salas and Avelina Sablan Salas

His siblings and family: Andrew S. and Ritchel Salas and family; Vincent S. Salas and family; Mariano S. and Jennifer A. Salas and family; Joseph S. and Catherine P. Salas and family; Priscilla S. and Ricardo Jaranilla and family; Antonio S. Jr. and Brenda M. Salas and family; Leonora S. and William "Bill" Lightfoot and family; Paul S. Salas and daughters; Joanne S. Salas and daughter; Thomas S. and Fe A. Salas and family; Evelyn S. and Luis V. DeLeon Guerrero and family; Florence S. and Kevin Davis and family; Raymond S. and Elena C. Salas and family; and Carolyn S. and Joseph C. Santos and family.

His Sisters in law: Connie S. Agulto; and Levin Nansen

His Mother in-law: Benedicta "Dicta" C. Tenorio

His Father-in-law: Juan S. and Janet F. Torres

His Brothers and Sisters in law: Timothy John T. and Jennifer P. Torres and family; Carla T. and Benjamin T. Hocog and family; William "Bill" Albert T. Torres and Jaime Pangelinan; Jay F. Torres, Michael Flores, Charlotte Flores and family; and Howard Flores.

John is survived by numerous nieces, nephews and godchildren.

Daily mass of intention is offered at 6:00 a.m., except for Wednesday at 6:00 p.m and on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. at Kristo rai Parish Church. We, the family, invite you to join us as we say our last good-byes and to bring our dearly beloved to his final home on:

Friday, May 17, 2024 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral followed with the celebration of the Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. The Rite of Comital service follows immediately at the CNMI Veteran's Cemetery in Marpi where we will put John to his final resting place.

For all your love, prayers, thoughts and kindness,
THANK YOU, SI YU'US MA'ASE and OLOMWAAY

Frances "Frannie" Torres-Salas
Antonio Taitano and Avelina Sablan Salas,
children and family

Life & Style

‘Diddy’ asks judge to dismiss ‘false’ claim he, others raped 17-year-old girl

Sean “Diddy” Combs on Friday asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit alleging that he and two co-defendants raped a 17-year-old girl in a New York recording studio in 2003, saying it was a “false and hideous claim” that was filed too late under the law.

The legal move is the latest piece of pushback from the 54-year-old hip-hop mogul and his legal team after he was subjected to several similar lawsuits and a subsequent criminal sex-trafficking investigation.

“Mr. Combs and his companies categorically deny Plaintiff’s decades-old tale against them, which has caused incalculable damage to their reputations and business standing before any evidence has been presented,” says the filing, which also names Combs-owned corporations as defendants. “Plaintiff cannot allege what day or time of year the alleged incident occurred, but miraculously remembers other salacious details, despite her alleged incapacitated condition.”

The lawsuit was filed in December and amended in March

Combs

by the woman who now lives in Canada whose name wasn’t disclosed in the court filing. She said she was in 11th grade at a high school in a Detroit suburb in 2003, when Harve Pierre, then the president of Combs’ Bad Boy Entertainment record label, flew her to New York on a private jet and took her to a recording studio, where she was given drugs and alcohol until she was incapable of consenting to sex. Then, the lawsuit said, Pierre, Combs and a man she didn’t know took turns raping her.

The lawsuit included photographs of the woman sitting on Combs’ lap that she said were taken on the night in question.

The defense filing asks that the case be “dismissed now, with prejudice”—meaning it cannot be refiled—“to protect the Combs Defendants from further reputational injury and before more party and judicial resources are squandered.”

One of the plaintiff’s attorneys, Michael J. Willemin, said in a statement in response to the filing: “At this point, no one should take anything ‘diddy’ or his lawyers say seriously. Today’s motion is just a desperate attempt by Combs to avoid accountability for Ms. Doe’s allegations of gang rape and sexual assault. It won’t work.”

At this early stage in the lawsuit, the arguments are procedural rather than on the facts of the case.

Some of the lawsuits filed against Combs involve decades-old allegations and are among the more than 3,700 legal claims filed under New York’s Adult Survivors Act, which temporarily suspended certain legal deadlines to give sexual assault victims a last opportunity to sue over abuse that happened years or even decades ago. ***(AP)***

Alleged Rushdie attacker could still face federal charges, lawyer says

MAYVILLE, N.Y. (AP)—The lawyer for the New Jersey man charged with stabbing author Salman Rushdie is in talks with county and federal prosecutors to try to resolve existing charges of attempted murder without a trial—as well as potential terrorism-related charges that could still be coming, he said Friday.

Hadi Matar, 26, has been held without bail since his 2022 arrest, immediately after allegedly attacking the internationally acclaimed writer in front of a stunned audience he was about to address at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York. Rushdie was blinded in one eye, and moderator Henry Reese also was wounded.

Matar pleaded not guilty to assault and attempted murder after being indicted by a Chautauqua County grand jury shortly after the attack.

The U.S. Justice Department continues to consider separate federal charges against Matar, though none have yet been filed, according to public defender Nathaniel Barone, who said he is in contact with federal prosecutors.

“They’re looking at it from a whole different perspective,” Barone said.

“Any statute you’re dealing with federally could be terrorist-based,” he added, without providing details, “and the exposure is much more significant for my client than the state charges.”

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney’s Office said it does not confirm or deny investigations.

If Matar agrees to plead guilty in the state and a potential federal case, Barone said, he would want a shorter state prison sentence in return, something Chautauqua County District Attorney Jason Schmidt is unwilling to consider.

Teen and Miss USA quit their crowns, citing mental health and personal values

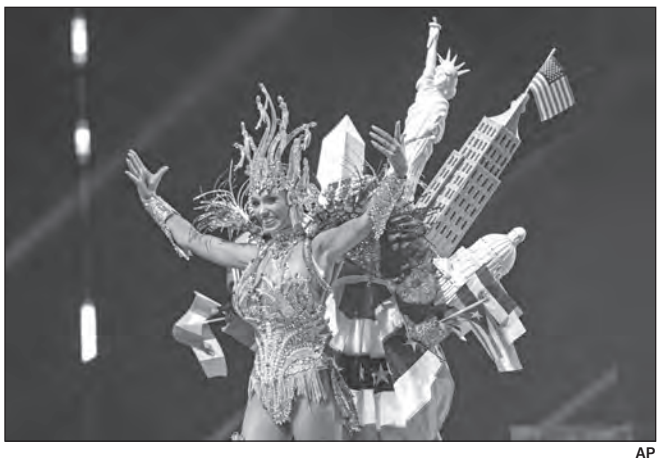
The reigning winners of Miss USA, Noelia Voigt, and Miss Teen USA, UmaSofia Srivastava, resigned from their titles within days of each other this week in a shock to the Miss Universe Organization.

The resignations leave the longstanding pageant group without its top two titleholders for the first time in 72 years, shining a spotlight on its practices. The resignations have drawn calls for more transparency into Miss USA and its parent organization, both of which have faced controversy and scrutiny in the past.

Voigt, crowned in September 2023, was the first Venezuelan American to win her title.

The title was a “childhood dream” and stepping down was a “very tough decision,” the former Miss Utah and University of Alabama student said in an Instagram post on Monday.

“My hope is that I continue to inspire others to remain steadfast, prioritize your mental health, advocate for yourself and others by using your voice,” the 24-year-old wrote.



AP

Miss USA Noelia Voigt competes in the national costume competition at the Miss Universe Beauty Pageant in San Salvador, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023.

Alongside the statement, Voigt added a caption that read, “I realize this may come as a large shock to many. Never compromise your physical and mental well-being.” She then thanked fans for their “unwavering support.”

In its own statement, the Miss USA Organization thanked Voigt for her service and wished her “the best in this next chapter.”

“We respect and support Noelia’s decision to step down from her duties. The well-being of our titleholders is a top priority, and we understand her need to prioritize herself at this time,” the statement read. “We are currently reviewing plans for the transition of responsibilities to a successor, and we will soon announce the crowning of the new Miss USA.”

Srivastava, who was also crowned last September, announced her resignation in her own post on Instagram on Wednesday.

“I find that my personal values no longer fully align with the direction of the organization,” the former Miss New Jersey Teen USA wrote.

The 17-year-old thanked her family and fans, said she was glad to represent her state as a first-generation Mexican Indian American and noted she was eager to apply to colleges and work on her multi-lingual children’s book.

A caption accompanying the statement said “this was certainly not how I saw my reign coming to a close” but called the experience a privilege.

A Miss Teen USA spokesperson could not be reached for comment on Srivastava’s announcement. The Miss Universe Organization, which runs the Miss USA and Miss Teen USA pageants, could not be reached for comment. ***(AP)***

Relationship with younger partner collapses bitterly

DEAR ABBY: I am a middle-aged gay man who has never had any serious relationships. A few months ago, I met a 22-year-old guy. He seemed really sweet and nice, and we had good times when we were together, so I let him use me for money. He played on the feelings I thought I had for him, and I think I still do.

The other night, I caught him lying to me again and went off the deep end. He ended up blocking my number, so I know he’s not getting my text messages. I have called him at least 100 times and it goes straight to voicemail. Must I just chalk it up as “lesson learned” and try to go on?

I doubt I will ever forget him. I know I need to go on with my life. He’s in my head right now and it’s difficult. If it were to happen, I can’t go back to him the way we were. Although this may sound stupid and immature, I think I fell in love with him. I’m not sure. He hurt me badly because I let him use me. Thank you for any advice you can offer.

TRICKED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR TRICKED: I’m sorry you’re hurting but, yes, you should chalk this up as a lesson learned. You stated you’ve never had a serious relationship. If you would like to pursue one, meeting someone closer to your age with whom you have more in common would be beneficial. Check in at your nearest LGBTQ community center and sign up for an activity or event and you may meet someone. I wish you luck.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am a caregiver for my elderly diabetic mother and my disabled husband, who is an alcoholic and also epileptic. Every single household responsibility falls on me—cleaning, upkeep, shopping, driving, food preparation, etc. My mother refuses to eat right for her medical condition. It’s a daily struggle. I keep everything on hand to make it easy for her, but I still have to beg and plead.

I am not well. I have several autoimmune diseases that zap my strength. I love my mom and my husband, but this has taken every bit of joy from my life. My mother doesn’t have dementia—she’s very aware of what she is doing.

As for my husband, his love for me will never come close to his love of alcohol. He is never abusive, but I have never felt so overwhelmed and alone at the same time. There are no siblings to help, and my children live out of state. Do you have any suggestions on how to keep what is left of my sanity?

OVERWORKED IN VIRGINIA

DEAR OVERWORKED: Yes, I do, but you may not like what I have to say. It’s time to quit trying to “save” your mother and your husband from the fates they have chosen. Your mother is an adult and in possession of her faculties. Let her assume responsibility for herself and her treatment. (Or not—also her choice.)

As to your husband’s alcoholism, join Al-Anon and start attending meetings. Only he can fix his drinking problem IF HE WANTS TO. Ruining your health trying to help people who don’t want to be helped may be well-intentioned, but it is also misguided.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

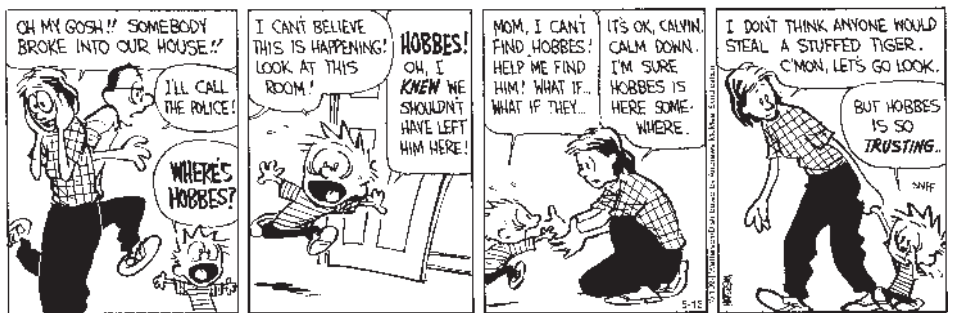
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

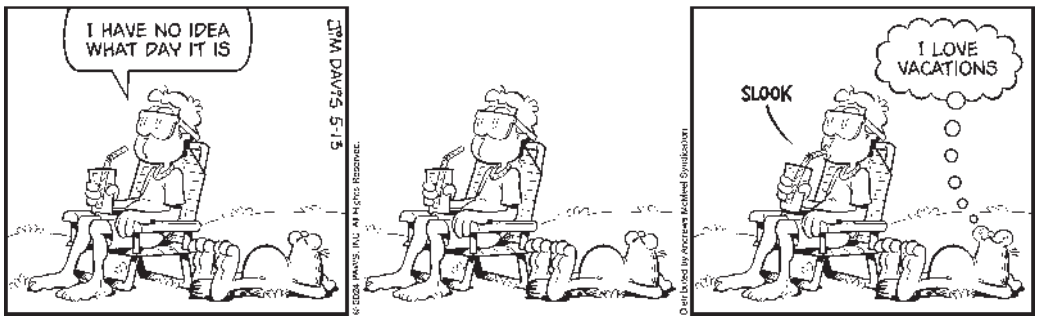
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH MY GOSH!! SOMEBODY BROKE INTO OUR HOUSE!!
I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
WHERE'S HOBBES?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING! LOOK AT THIS ROOM!
HOBBES! OH, I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT HIM HERE!
MOM, I CAN'T FIND HOBBES! HELP ME FIND HIM! WHAT IF... WHAT IF THEY...
IT'S OK, CALVIN. CALM DOWN. I'M SURE HOBBES IS HERE SOMEWHERE.
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD STEAL A STUFFED TIGER. C'MON, LET'S GO LOOK.
BUT HOBBES IS SO TRUSTING..
SNIFF

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DEAR READERS: WHILE ROB TAKES A MUCH-NEEDED NAP, THIS WEEK'S STRIPS WILL BE GENERATED BY AI.
PLEASE ENJOY.
HEY, LAURA.
HI, ADAM.
AI
DRINKING COFFEE AGAIN, I SEE.
YOU SURE DO LOVE YOU COFFEE, SOME!
NOT AS MUCH AS NAPS! HA HA!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

BOSS CAN YOU SEND ME TO THAT CONFERENCE IN CANCUN ON MANAGING BUSINESS EXPENSES?
HECK NO! THAT CONFERENCE COSTS ME $10,000 PER EMPLOYEE.
DANG, THEN CAN YOU LOAN ME FIVE BUCKS FOR A MARGARITA?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Grade school basics
5 Scale abbr.
8 Despot
12 Corn seasoning
13 "Alley —"
14 Tolstoy's Karenina
15 Cicatrix
16 Ice cream order
18 Heavy blow
20 Royal headgear
21 "Trees," for one
23 Naughty child
24 Like an LP
28 Priests' garments
31 "Lion" star Patel
32 Eye surgery
34 Mork's home
35 Ooze
37 Like some light bulbs
39 — Dawn Chong
41 Desires
42 Making a choice
45 Inform
49 Golf group, often
51 Bailiwick
52 Golfer's warning
53 Behold
54 Cash drawer
55 Go downhill fast?
56 Owned
57 Villa d'—

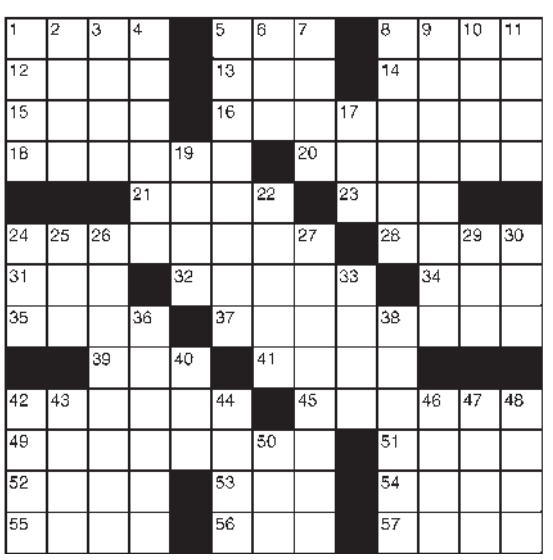
DOWN

1 Admin. aide
2 One of the three B's
3 Hammer part
4 Handbag handles
5 Observed
6 Rock's — Jovi
7 Detail, in short
8 City near Seattle
9 Winter road clearer
10 Unsigned (Abbr.)
11 Sings like Doja Cat
17 Lanka lead-in
19 Mattress spring
22 Netlike
24 Gridiron scores, for short
25 Teeny
26 Opera opener
27 Desperation
29 Bikini half
30 Firmament
33 Vegas game
36 Coupled (with)
38 Will subject
40 USN rank
42 Does in, mob-style
43 Combine
44 "Gee whiz!"
46 "Bearded" bloom
47 Fedora fabric
48 Harvard rival
50 "Give — break!"

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	N		W	H	I	R		S	L	A	G
A	L	A		O	O	Z	E		L	O	N	E
R	E	D	N	O	S	E	D		I	C	N	S
S	C	A	T	H	E		H	I	D			
			E	O	S		O	C	E	L	O	I
R	U	S	S	O		S	T	Y		I	T	O
I	C	E	I		H	N	S		C	L	O	W
F	I	A		G	F	I		D	O	Y	F	N
T	A	I	M	U	D		S	O	N			
			A	T	A		E	U	N	I	C	E
D	I	I	I		R	F	D	B	A	R	O	N
E	R	A	T		M	E	A	T		M	A	D
B	A	S	S		Y	F	N	S		A	I	S

Last Friday's answer 5-13



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Candice Accola, 37; Lena Dunham, 38; Stephen Colbert, 60; Stevie Wonder, 74.

Happy Birthday: Be open, use your imagination and let your creativity lead the way, and you'll find solutions. Put some oomph behind the message you want to send, and make a point to connect with those you can teach and those you can learn from. Don't let stubbornness stand between you and your dreams. Light the way for yourself and those stuck in the dark. Your numbers are 6, 17, 23, 29, 32, 37, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Emotions and money will lead to unnecessary purchases. If you are in the spending mood, look for sales or consider reversing your thoughts and selling something you own. Think before you act. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Look for opportunity, and jump at the chance to embark on change. Dedicate your skills to implement your plans, and be the one to start goals. It's up to you to inspire and be the upbeat guide who sets trends. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Recycle, reuse, redo and move along. Establish what's important and put every ounce of energy into turning your thoughts into a reality. March to the beat that captures your heart and makes you feel good about the things you do and the difference you make. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Be open about what you think and want to do, and you'll discover that you are not alone. Step up and be the one to start a movement or to make improvements in all aspects of your life. Define your role and fine-tune how you reach your goal. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't let emotions turn into drama when you can channel the energy and make a positive difference to those around you. You hold the power, and what you do with it makes the difference. Update your skills to fit what's trending in your profession. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* An open mind will encourage you to take what you discover and head in a direction that sculpts your passion for life. Don't limit what you can do to spare someone else. Your happiness begins with you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Draw on your resources and put energy into planning and completion. Take action to avoid getting stuck in a rut. If you find yourself losing momentum, reach out to someone you can depend on to give you a pep talk. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Avoid trouble and allow yourself to establish how you feel and what you want before confronting a situation that puzzles you. Time is on your side and creativity is soaring. Apply your energy to new concepts and developments, and do what you do best. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* It will do you good to get out and about. Taking in what's happening around you will spark your imagination and encourage you to see your problems differently. Explore what's available in your community and focus on health, fitness and peace of mind. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Focus on what's doable, not the impossible. Take care of personal business, contracts and domestic issues to alleviate worry and free up time to take better care of yourself. Don't let the changes others make stop you from doing what's best for you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Overreacting isn't the answer. Keep busy and concentrate on learning, discovering and handling unfinished business. Blow off steam, run errands and stick to lighthearted conversations that help you relax instead of wind you up. Make short trips, educational pursuits and self-improvement your priorities. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Focus on what you can accomplish. Use your connections to ensure you are updated. An energetic approach and positive attitude will ramp up the speed at which you work and encourage success that goes beyond your expectations. Make long-term plans your focus. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are productive, relentless and dependable. You are receptive and unique.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9	7	8	3	6
8	3	9	1					
	5		8					
4	9						8	2
		6	4	3	1	5		
				2	8	3	6	
7	1		6				2	3
		8	2		9	6		7
	6				5		1	8

Difficulty: ★ 5/13

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

7	9	5	1	2	6	8	3	4
6	8	1	9	3	4	5	2	7
3	2	4	7	8	5	9	1	6
4	6	3	5	9	8	1	7	2
8	5	2	6	1	7	4	9	3
1	7	9	3	4	2	6	8	5
5	3	8	2	6	1	7	4	9
2	4	7	8	5	9	3	6	1
9	1	6	4	7	3	2	5	8

Difficulty: ★★★★ 5/10

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LET'S NOT PONTIFICATE Solution: 9 letters

N	O	M	R	E	S	M	I	A	L	C	(I)	(D)	(E)	(A)
N	H	C	A	E	T	T	R	L	O	Y	A	L	Y	T
R	N	I	A	V	R	R	H	P	R	O	U	D	L	T
O	S	R	T	U	O	P	S	E	R	A	H	S	P	I
B	R	W	A	G	N	J	V	U	O	E	D	E	M	T
B	G	U	A	E	G	I	D	A	V	R	C	Q	I	U
U	A	N	D	L	L	T	E	I	L	C	Y	U	N	D
T	T	D	I	E	A	T	T	S	A	U	T	I	D	E
S	T	S	D	L	I	C	U	P	N	L	E	E	G	R
U	C	E	K	R	E	P	R	E	R	O	O	T	X	U
O	E	L	W	P	E	E	T	E	V	A	S	G	M	T
P	L	U	S	R	A	S	F	C	A	A	I	S	U	C
M	F	R	I	C	I	E	S	H	P	C	H	S	E	E
O	E	O	H	L	A	R	O	M	N	T	T	E	E	L
P	R	E	N	N	A	M	E	S	S	A	G	E	B	S

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 5/13

Accept, Address, Arrogant, Attitude, Behave, Claim, Delivery, Dialogue, Feeling, Idea, Imply, Laws, Learn, Lecture, Lesson, Listen, Loyal, Manner, Message, Mind, Moral, Past, Perspective, Pompous, Praise, Preach, Proud, Quiet, React, Reflect, Rude, Rules, Sermon, Share, Speech, Spout, Strong, Stubborn, Superior, Talk, Teach, Text, Theory, Vain, Value, Write

Last Friday's answer : Collect

The NEW **Volume 77** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Mavs hold off Thunder again for 2-1 lead in West semis

DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic already had a balky right knee and an achy left ankle when he fell hard on his back while battling his primary defender, Lu Dort, for a loose ball.

Not only did Doncic win the ensuing jump ball, the NBA scoring champion tracked down the loose ball that followed with his Dallas Mavericks clinging to a late lead.

"Everything," Doncic said when asked what hurt, a few minutes after walking gingerly to the locker room with Dallas having beaten Oklahoma City 105-101 on Saturday to secure a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference semifinals. "I'm just battling out there."

The same could be said for plenty of others.

Kyrie Irving scored 22 points, including a running left-hander in the lane in the final minute to help the Mavs hold on.

Doncic also had 22 points to go with 15 rebounds, and P.J. Washington Jr. scored 27, just two shy of his playoff high from Dallas' Game 2 victory.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 31 points, 10 rebounds and four blocks, but was called for a charge with Doncic defending on a drive with 29 seconds left and the Thunder trailing by five.

Chet Holmgren, who scored 13 points, also had four blocks as Oklahoma City finished with 10. But the Thunder were outrebounded 16-5 on the offensive glass by the scrappy Mavs, who had a 16-9 edge in second-chance points.

Top-seeded Oklahoma City has lost consecutive games after starting 5-0 in the playoffs. Game 4 is Monday night in Dallas.

"It's extremely competitive," Holmgren said. "Both teams really want it. If you take the result out of it, it's everything that you want to be going through in a basketball game."

Irving bounced back from just the third single-digit scoring game of his lengthy playoff career with 14 points in the second half, including six consecutive Dallas points in the fourth quarter that helped the Mavs to their biggest lead of the final period at nine.

The Dallas lead was three after a missed 3-pointer from Gilgeous-Alexander when Irving drove across the lane and hit a runner for a 104-99 lead with 39 seconds to go.

The eight-time All-Star, coming off just eight shots and nine points when Dallas evened the series in Oklahoma City, was 10 of 17 from the field and had seven assists to lead the team for the second game in a row.

"One of my coaches just came up to me and said I waited too long, so obviously I've got to be better on my end," said Irving, who made all four of his fourth-quarter shots. "We're going against a young team. So we just want to continue to do the things that get us these W's, and it starts on the defensive end."

Washington had a 19-point first half for the second consecutive game, once again finishing three points shy of the combined total before the break for Irving and Doncic. Washington was 3 of 6 from 3-point range in the first half and 5 of 12 for the game.

"He's hooping," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "We've got to turn that water off if we want to win this series, for sure."

Oklahoma City coach Mark Daigneault decided to foul Dereck Lively II intentionally in the fourth quarter, and the rookie center missed three of the first four free throws. But he hit the next four in a row, the last putting Dallas up 100-95 with 3:06 to go.

Lively, who shot 51% from the line in the regular season and came in 11 of 21 in the playoffs, finished 8 of 12 on free throws and had 12 points and eight rebounds.

Mavericks center Daniel Gafford, who dealt with a dislocated pinkie finger in Game 2, exited in the second quarter after injuring his left shoulder in an inadvertent collision with Josh Giddey.

Gafford returned to the court for the second half with the shoulder in a large wrap, but took it off and was still in the starting lineup. He was limited to six minutes after the break, finishing with eight points.

Oklahoma City's Jalen Williams stayed down for almost 30 seconds of live action in the third quarter, ending in a 3-pointer by Irving, after injuring his left ankle. Williams went the locker room briefly but returned early in the fourth quarter and finished with 16 points and eight assists.

Isaiah Joe had his playoff career best for a game with 10 points before halftime, hitting a 3 just before the buzzer to give Oklahoma City a 52-51 lead at the break. Joe finished with 13.

AP

Dallas Mavericks' Kyrie Irving (11) and Luka Doncic, right, celebrate the team's win in Game 3 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Oklahoma City Thunder, Saturday, May 11, 2024, in Dallas.

CELTICS 106, CAVALIERS 93

CLEVELAND (AP)—Green uniforms. Big shots. Championship-level intensity.

The Boston Celtics looked much more like themselves in Game 3.

Jayson Tatum scored 33 points, Jaylen Brown added 28 and the No. 1-seeded Celtics bounced back from a stumble at home, beating the Cleveland Cavaliers 106-93 on Saturday night to take a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

The Celtics didn't mess around after dropping Game 2 on their home parquet floor by 24 on Thursday. They couldn't.

"We don't come to Cleveland for the weather, so let's go," said Brown, who went 13 of 17 from the field. "There's nothing complicated about it: Play defense and the rest will take care of itself. We could have done better, but we kept them under 100."

The lackluster performance—Boston was favored by double digits—in Game 2 was reminiscent of the first round, when the Celtics lost the second game against Miami before winning three in a row to eliminate the Heat.

"Tonight was a great test, an opportunity for us to come out and respond, and play better and harder," said Tatum, who added 13 rebounds and six assists. "There was a purpose behind every play. We did a good job communicating our actions."

Tatum scored on a three-point play and the Celtics opened the second half with 14 straight points to take a 23-point lead.

That was way too much for the Cavs, who overcame a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter to stun Boston in March.

"We felt like trying to punch them in the face right away was the right option," said Jrue Holiday, who scored 15 of his 18 points in the first half. "J.B. (Brown) told us it wasn't over and we knew that. We've been up 20 in the fourth quarter here and they came back and won."

Donovan Mitchell scored 33 points for Cleveland, but the All-Star guard aggravated a left knee injury in the fourth quarter and was labored. With Boston up 13 and in control, Mitchell left the court with 1:19 left and walked directly to the locker room.

Afterward, Mitchell didn't say anything about the injury, but bemoaned Cleveland's slow start after halftime.

"It changed the game," he said. "Give them credit. They came out with a sense of urgency. It's tough to come back from that. They came out with an intention."

Cleveland got within nine three times in the fourth but the Celtics, who went just 8 of 35 on 3-pointers in Game 2, got back-to-back 3s from Payton Pritchard and Derrick White to slow the Cavs' comeback.

Game 4 is Monday night in Cleveland.

"We need everybody to be on the same page and everybody to come out with the same effort," Brown said. "The rest will take care of itself because we've got enough talent in this locker room."

Down by 23 and unable to stop Tatum, the Cavs clawed back.

They cut Boston's lead to 15 by the end of the third, and scored the first six points in the fourth, sending their towel-waving crowd at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse looking for another upset into a frenzy.

But whenever the Celtics needed a bucket, they went to either Tatum or Brown, who broke down Cleveland's defense for layups or made tough, contested jumpers.

"When they get going, that's who they are," Mitchell said. "We fought and we clawed back but that start of the third quarter, that's what did it."

Evan Mobley added 17 points and Darius Garland and Caris LeVert 15 apiece for the Cavs, who lost for the first time at home in these playoffs.

Cleveland was again without starting center Jarrett Allen, who missed his sixth straight game with a painful rib injury. Allen has been out since Game 4 of the opening-round series against Orlando and there's no telling when—or if—he'll be available.

Mitchell made six 3-pointers and scored 23 in the first half to pace the Cavs, but Cleveland didn't get nearly enough from the rest of its starters or bench as the Celtics opened a 57-48 halftime lead.

After the Celtics were stunned on their home floor in Game 2 despite being heavy favorites, coach Joe Mazzulla said the message to his players heading into Game 3 was simple.

"Do what you do best, and do it better," he said.

The Celtics started cold again, missing their first two 3-pointers. But those good early looks raised their confidence, and they made 5 3s in the first quarter to take a 30-28 lead after one.

By then Game 2 was forgotten, and Tatum was confident all the Celtics would show up.

"I've done that plenty of times before (score 33 points)," he said. "The points will come and go, but the poise we played with was the most important. And we did it in a great environment that was fun to be a part of."

Cleveland got a nice early lift as forward Dean Wade made his postseason debut after missing the past two months with a sprained knee. Wade, who scored a career-high 23 against Boston on March 5 when the Cavs overcame a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter, knocked down a 3-pointer on his first touch.

Boston center Kristaps Porzingis missed his fourth straight game with a calf strain.

Braves combine to no-hit the Mets for 8 2/3, win 4-1

AP

Atlanta Braves' Raisel Iglesias pitches during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the New York Mets, Saturday, May 11, 2024, in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Atlanta's Max Fried and two relievers combined for a no-hitter through 8 2/3 innings before New York's J.D. Martinez homered to spoil the bid as the Braves beat the Mets 4-1 on Saturday.

Fried opened with seven no-hit innings and Joe Jiménez worked around a pair of walks in the eighth before Raisel Iglesias retired the first two batters of the ninth. Martinez homered just over the wall in right field on the next pitch off Iglesias, who walked Jeff McNeil and allowed an infield single to Harrison Bader before retiring Brett Baty on a fly to center.

The Braves have not thrown a no-hitter since Kent Mercker's gem against the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 8, 1994. The no-hitter drought is the fourth-longest in the majors.

The Braves have the second-most wins and second-lowest ERA in baseball since 1994, a span in which Hall of Famers Tom Glavine, Greg Maddux and John Smoltz pitched for the team.

Fried walked three over the first seven innings, throwing 109 pitches, one shy of his career high. The 30-year-old left-hander retired the first eight batters he faced before issuing consecutive walks to Tomas Nido and Brandon Nimmo. He then set down 11 straight before walking Pete Alonso with one out in the seventh.

BLUE JAYS 10, TWINS 8

TORONTO (AP)—Ernie Clement broke an 8-all tie with a bases-loaded single in the seventh inning and Toronto overcame a six-run deficit to beat Minnesota.

Danny Jansen hit a two-run home run while Bo Bichette and Davis Schneider each hit solo homers for the Blue Jays, who came in having lost six of eight.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. went 4 for 5 with three RBIs in his 11th multihit game of the season as the Blue Jays used a season-best 16 hits to cool off the Twins, who had won 16 of 18.

Guerrero tied it at 8-all with a two-run, two-out single off Steven Okert in the sixth inning.

RED SOX 4, NATIONALS 2

BOSTON (AP)—Rafael Devers hit a tiebreaking, two-run double in the eighth inning to lift Boston to a victory over Washington.

Wearing their alternate bright-yellow jerseys with powder-blue lettering, numbers and caps, the Red Sox snapped a three-game losing streak with just their second victory in eight games.

Devers hit his two-out double over the head of left fielder Eddie Rosario off Robert Garcia (0-2) after Tyler O'Neill was intentionally walked with Rob Refsnyder on second.

Chris Martin (2-1) worked a scoreless inning and Kenley Jansen got three outs for his sixth save, the 426th of his career.

RAYS 7, YANKEES 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Randy Arozarena homered and drove in four runs, Yandy Díaz hit a leadoff shot, and Tampa Bay beat New York.

Arozarena put the Rays ahead 4-2 with a three-run homer in the third inning off Nestor Cortes (1-4). The 2023 All-Star has struggled this season—he went 2 for 3 to raise his average to just .154—but has gone deep four times in his last eight games.

Díaz homered on Cortes' first pitch of the game. Díaz and Arozarena had RBI doubles in a three-run seventh.

Zack Littell (2-2) allowed two runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings as the Rays returned to .500 at 20-20.

Rays closer Pete Fairbanks returned after missing 19 games with nerve-related hand issues and struck out one in a 1-2-3 ninth.

PHILLIES 8, MARLINS 3

MIAMI (AP)—Bryson Stott hit a tiebreaking, bases-loaded triple in the sixth inning, and major league-best Philadelphia beat Miami.

Stott finished with two hits and four RBIs. Catcher J.T. Realmuto had a run-scoring single and threw out two baserunners trying to steal for the Phillies, who have won 13 of 15 to improve to 28-12. Cristian Pache had three hits and an RBI and is 5-for-9 through the first two games of the series.

Phillies starter Taijuan Walker (3-0) allowed one run in six innings. He gave up eight hits and struck out four.

The Marlins dropped to an NL-worst 10-31. They are 1-7 since trading NL batting champion Luis Arraez on May 4.

ORIOLES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4, 11 INNINGS

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jordan Westburg flicked a game-ending single inside the right field line in the 11th inning for his fourth hit of the day, and Baltimore beat Arizona.

Gunnar Henderson tied the major league lead with his 12th homer of the season for the AL East-leading Orioles, and Anthony Santander went deep in the eighth to tie the game at 4-all.

Craig Kimbrel (4-1) worked a scoreless 11th after a rough stretch in which the veteran closer failed to convert four of five save opportunities. He also worked a scoreless seventh in Friday night's 4-2 win. Baltimore (26-12) has won seven of eight and has the second-best record in the majors behind Philadelphia.

TIGERS 8, ASTROS 2

DETROIT (AP)—Mark Canha hit a grand slam in a seven-run second inning, Kerry Carpenter homered twice and Detroit beat Houston.

Tarik Skubal (5-0) gave up two runs on seven hits and two walks while striking out seven over 6 1/3 innings.

Cristian Javier (2-1) allowed seven runs on five hits and four walks in 1 1/3 innings, making his first start since going on the injured list because of neck discomfort nearly a month ago.

The Tigers loaded the bases against Javier in the pivotal second and then he threw four straight balls to Riley Greene, forcing home the first run. Two pitches later, Canha sat on a changeup and sent it 393 feet over the left-field fence.

Carpenter's two-run homer put Detroit ahead 7-0 and ended Javier's brief and rough outing.

WHITE SOX 3, GUARDIANS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Mike Clevinger combined with three relievers on a four-hitter, and Chicago topped Cleveland for their season-high fourth consecutive victory.

Clevinger permitted one run and four hits in 4 2/3 innings in his second major league start of the season. The right-hander, who signed a $3 million, one-year contract with Chicago on April 4, struck out five and walked none.

Then the bullpen took over.

Tim Hill (1-0), Jared Shuster and John Brebbia combined for 4 1/3 hitless innings as the last-place White Sox improved to 9-6 since their 3-22 start. Shuster got six outs before Brebbia handled the ninth for his first save since June 8, 2018, for St. Louis at Cincinnati.

PIRATES 10, CUBS 9

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Paul Skenes struck out seven over four-plus innings in his major league debut and Yasmani Grandal hit a go-ahead three-run homer as Pittsburgh edged Chicago.

Skenes, the top overall pick in the 2023 draft, showed flashes of why he is considered perhaps the best pitching prospect in a generation. The 21-year-old—who was greeted by a standing ovation by most of the near-capacity crowd including girlfriend Livvy Dunne—reached 100 mph on 17 of his 84 pitches.

He was electric at times but hardly perfect. Skenes allowed at least one runner in every inning he started—including a solo homer by Nico Hoerner in the fourth—and was pulled after allowing a pair of hits leading off the fifth. He was charged with three runs on six hits with two walks and a hit batter.

GIANTS 5, REDS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Matt Chapman hit a grand slam in the first inning to lead struggling San Francisco to a victory over Cincinnati.

The Giants had lost eight of 11 games coming into the contest and were averaging less than three runs over their last 15 before Chapman provided more than that with one big swing in the first against Nick Lodolo (3-2).

Chapman came to the plate with two outs in and sent a drive over the bullpen beyond the fence in left-center to give San Francisco a 4-0 lead.

BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Rhys Hoskins hit a go-ahead three-run home run in the seventh inning and Milwaukee beat St. Louis, sending them to their seventh straight loss.

Milwaukee trailed 3-2 when Hoskins hit his ninth homer, a 407-foot blast to center off reliever Andrew Kittredge (0-2).

The NL-Central leading Brewers have eight straight wins over the Cardinals, dating to last season.

St. Louis, last in the division and nine games behind Milwaukee, has the longest current losing streak in the majors.

Milwaukee starter Freddy Peralta, who walked six batters in five innings in his last outing, walked one and struck out eight, giving up three runs in six innings.

ROCKIES 8, RANGERS 3

DENVER (AP)—Elias Díaz had two hits including a tie-breaking single in a six-run seventh inning, Ryan McMahon tied a career high with four hits, and Colorado won its first series of the season with a victory over Texas.

The Rockies, who had lost 11 of their first 12 series and split the other, won their third straight game for the first time this season.

Jacob Stallings had a two-run single and Charlie Blackmon had a two-run double in the seventh, when the Rockies scored all six runs with two outs. Blackmon had his 599th career extra-base hit, tying Larry Walker for second in franchise history.

DODGERS 5, PADRES 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Teoscar Hernández hit a grand slam, James Paxton tossed six scoreless innings to remain undefeated and Los Angeles defeated San Diego.

Freddie Freeman hit a solo homer for the Dodgers, who have won eight of their last nine games.

Paxton (5-0) was masterful while allowing four hits with four strikeouts and no walks. In a start against San Diego on April 14, Paxton walked eight in a no-decision.

The Petco Park attendance of 46,701 set the largest single-game attendance record in the stadium's 20-year history. The previous high was 45,567 on March 30, 2014—opening day—also against the Dodgers.

ANGELS 9, ROYALS 3

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Jo Adell hit a three-run homer and Kevin Pillar had three hits and three RBIs in Los Angeles' victory over Kansas City.

Logan O'Hoppe had a two-run double during a four-run seventh for the Angels, who won for only the sixth time in 22 games.

Tyler Anderson (3-4) yielded three runs and seven hits over 6 2/3 effective innings for the Halos, ending his five-start winless skid. The left-hander retired 12 straight at one point.

Salvador Pérez had an early RBI double for the Royals, whose three-game winning streak ended.

ATHLETICS 8, MARINERS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Rookie starter Joey Estes struck out five in five solid innings after being called up earlier in the day for his first major league win, and Oakland beat Seattle.

Abraham Toro and Brent Rooker hit run-scoring singles in the two-run third inning to put Oakland up 2-1. Max Schuemann added added a three-run double in the eighth and JJ Bleday had a two-run homer in the ninth as Oakland snapped a two-game losing streak. The A's had lost five of six following a six-game winning streak.

Cal Raleigh hit his 10th home run, a solo shot in the second inning to put Seattle up 1-0. It was all Athletics after that.

Bryce Miller (3-3) struck out nine, allowing five hits, but started the costly third inning with one of his two walks, to Lawrence Butler. The speedy right fielder moved to second on Brett Harris' single and scored on Toro's single to right field. Rooker's hit to shallow right scored Harris for the 2-1 lead.

Brady's Netflix roast features lots of humor, reunion between Kraft, Belichick

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Three months before Tom Brady gets roasted by critics as Fox Sports' top NFL analyst, he took his share of barbs from comedians, former teammates and his longtime coach Sunday night during a made-for-streaming comedy live event on Netflix.

And it is safe to say after the one liners and jokes Brady heard during three hours of "The Greatest Roast of All Time" at The Forum, he will do just fine.

"It's like a football game. You run with a game plan, and then you get to see kind of how the strategy goes, and then you adjust on the fly," Brady said before the event. "This is what a locker room has been like for me for all these years. So it's not like I'm used to people not making fun of me."

Comedian Nikki Glaser, whose monologue was among the funniest of the night, termed the roast as "the comedians' Super Bowl" and how the competition level was ramped up because everyone wanted to one-up each other.

Brady sustained more blitzes and pressure than he did during an average NFL game as an impressive lineup of comedians, former teammates and opponents took the stage. Host Kevin Hart said before the event that no topic was off limits, and Hart went on the offensive early with jokes about Brady's ex-wife, Gisele Bündchen.

"Gisele gave you an ultimatum. She said you retire or we're done. When you got a chance to go 8-9 and all it will cost you is your wife and your kids, you've got to do what you've got to do," Hart said, referring to Brady coming out of a brief retirement in 2022 for one more season.

The only time Brady objected to a joke was when Jeff Ross made a reference to Patriots owner Robert Kraft and massages. In 2019, Kraft originally received a misdemeanor charge that he paid for sex at a Florida massage parlor. Prosecutors later dropped the charge after courts blocked the use of video from cameras installed by police inside the massage parlors.

AP

Tom Brady poses at "The Greatest Roast of All Time: Tom Brady" at the Kia Forum, Sunday, May 5, 2024, in Inglewood, Calif.

Brady walked up to Ross and said in his ear "don't say that (stuff) again", but it was clearly caught on the microphone and heard by those watching the roast at home. It was not heard by those in attendance.

Later, Kraft and former Patriots coach Bill Belichick did a shot together on stage after some coaxing from Hart.

Belichick was fired in January after 24 seasons with the Patriots, and a lot has been written about friction between the six-time winning Super Bowl coach and owner over the past couple years.

After joking about this being like a reunion and "unlike many family reunions there are some people I am desperately trying to avoid", Kraft praised Belichick for what the two accomplished.

"I want to say this is the greatest coach in the history of the game that did what no one else has done. And having Tom Brady and him was the greatest honor the good Lord gave me," Kraft said.

It wasn't the first shot (of alcohol) that Belichick took. Rob Gronkowski got Belichick and Brady to do a shot together after his monologue. Gronkowski celebrated by spiking his shot glass.

Belichick appeared at the beginning of the roast during a pre-taped segment when he told Brady that he was "starting the roast" instead of Drew Bledsoe. Brady replaced Bledsoe in 2001 when Bledsoe was injured in a Week 2 game against the Jets and led the Patriots to their first Super Bowl title that season.

"For all of you out there who think about who's responsible for the Patriots success during the time Tom and I was together—was it Tom or me—in reality the truth of the matter was it was both of us because of me," Belichick said.

Brady did have some fun at Belichick's expense though near the end of the show.

"I've been out of the game for a minute, so I'm curious, how many Super Bowl rings have you won since I left?" Brady said. "Maybe it's not just the guy on the sideline. When I go to the Indy 500, I don't ask the winning driver, `Hey, you gassed up your car?"

Hart said before the show that he thought Brady was in a great mindset going into the event. Brady did come in well prepared, going over his monologue with a group of people, including those at Fox Sports.

"You have to be able to laugh at yourself and I love that he is doing in this forum," Hart said. "I love that he is embracing the things that some people think he runs away from. It is a celebration of greatness and we are doing it in a fun way."

Bledsoe also said that Brady has had a sense of humor, but that this was a different stage.

"I thought he was very brave. There's plenty of material to make fun of him on," Bledsoe said. "The truth is when you're a professional athlete, roasting each other is kind of what we do every day in the locker room. And so, you better have thick skin going in. Now, people get to laugh along with it."

3-PEAT

From page 16

They first cruised past Kagman High School, then Saipan Southern High School, then SIS to clinch the first finals spot.

In the finals against the Geckos, the Dolphins, who handed the Geckos their only loss in the regular season, wreaked havoc on their full court matchup. While they played at the half court of the MHS gym in the regular season, the playoffs were set at the Ada Gym.

Even with the bigger layout, the Dolphins were as comfortable and in sync as they cruised through the first set, 21-14.

The Dolphins' rotation of Nehemiah and Yeshaiah Coleman, Mokyang Kim, Juruel Magtalas, Lowell Lumauag, Jerome Manzon, K.C. Nuyles, Dylan Salalila, Alex Kim, Jasper Hall, Seth Balakrishna, Raja Sevugan, Jonathan Sheu, and Mino Chuweiluk didn't let up as they bumped, set, and spiked their way closer to the championship.

In the second set, SIS regrouped and gave MHS a run for their money. Omari Joab, Casey Chambers, Sui Yi, Christian Newman, Ian Song, William Sosa, Dwight Crisostomo, and Kyle Kramer kept the pace and the first points up until the 10th were all draws.

However, after a timeout later in the match, the Dolphins commanded the serves and shortened the rallies in their favor from their hard-hitting kills at the net, to seal the win, 21-16.

LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's Mokyang Kim goes for a kill as a Saipan International School player tries to defend the net during the second set of their finals game in the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

After the awards ceremony, MHS coach Don Marshall Cabrera was interviewed and said that the team's undefeated record and their third championship in a row was a testament to their hard work and collective effort.

They had a fairly new squad from last season and said that they had to "figure out a way to gel with each other. But in the end, they were able to put it together and figure it out," said Cabrera.

He added, "We do play a little bit slow to start the game off, but when we get our gears going, we're pretty good." As for the difference between playing in a full court at Ada Gym than in a half court at the MHS gym, Cabrera said there's more room in the back to jump serve and when they need to scramble, they have to show a lot more effort and hustle for the ball.

On his thoughts about SIS, he said that he's surprised. "They were even better than I thought. Last year I think they finished third or fourth place and this year they really stepped up and gave us a run for our money."

For next season, it's almost a whole new team again as a majority of the team are graduating, but that "I'm expecting everybody to be able to step up and prove their worth and represent MHS."

He then thanked the students for doing their best in class and making sure they're eligible to play; their parents for supporting them; and the school administration and the PSS Athletics program for setting the whole event up.

After, Mokyang Kim, who is a senior in the team, was interviewed. He was in the JV team in his sophomore year and worked his way up to varsity. When there, he helped the team win the championship last season as well.

On how he felt about winning the championship again, he said he was "very happy." He then said that he thinks next year's team can make it a 4-peat next season.

MADFLEX

From page 16

knockout punches that kept Team Marianas down in the dumps.

Tengco put up 20, Matsumoto scored 13, while Ye and Helgen had 12 markers each.

Team Marianas' Azzy Fatialofa was the mainstay who tried to steer the team in an upward direction, but the Rollers' lead was too steep a hill to climb. In the end, Faitalofa was the only player for Team Marianas in double digits at 21, while Kaia Travilla scored 9, and Yasmeen Younis had 7 points.

The championship game is set for 6pm this Friday, May 17 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Tuesday

Madflex 70 – Lucero 22, Navarro 20, Sanchez 10, Ansus 5, Ragbonshe 4, Esdrelon 3, Caraig 3, Gutierrez 2, Pelisamen 1.

Prospects 46 – leon Duenas 9, liam Wilson-Sablan 8, keith Agulto 8, logan Daniel 8, Apatang 3, Demapan 2, Sablan Jr. 2, Chaikhamjam 2, Nigotel 1.

Scoring by quarters: 21-8, 32-17, 54-28, 70-46.

Wednesday

670 Rollers 81 – Tengco 20, Matsumoto Jr 13, Ye 12, Helgen 12, Basa 8, Camacho 5, Sasamoto 4, Addy 3, Pineda 2, Defang 2.

Team Marianas 45 – Fatialofa 21, Travilla 9, Younis 7, Kautz 6, Alegre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-11, 37-21, 59-35, 81-85.

SCHOOLS

From page 16

can get public schools to join in," said Dela Cruz.

In addition, Dela Cruz said, "We have runners of the CNMI running that are living abroad whether in college, relocated or serving in the military. We got participants from South Korea, Arizona, North Carolina, Florida, California, and hopefully more states when they respond to my call."

Dela Cruz said, "As the only road running club on island we are taking the lead with Northern Marianas Athletics to get as many participants and mileage as possible to meet World Athletics' goal to celebrate Kids Athletics Day and get more people to go out and move whether it's running, jogging, or walking."

Register at https://raceroster.com/events/2024/88976/world-mile-challenge-2024.

Then, log your miles on the Google form at https://forms.gle/YUiq7J8hyNMD19gU7 and they will verify it later.

Use the hashtags #WorldMileChallenge and #KidsAthleticsDay and tag @nmiathletics and https://www.facebook.com/WorldAthletics to share your initiatives/events by posting pictures/videos.

Mavs hold off Thunder again for 2-1 lead in West semis

PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Brady's Netflix roast features lots of humor, reunion between Kraft, Belichick

PAGE 15

3-peat for undefeated Dolphins in boys v-ball

LEIGH GASES

Champion team Marianas High School Dolphins poses for a group photo after winning their third title in a row after they defeated Saipan International School Geckos in two sets of the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The undefeated Marianas High School Dolphins are now back-to-back-to-back champions after defeating Saipan International School Geckos in the finals of the NMIVA-Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Dolphins sported the only undefeated run of the season after winning all eight regular season games, and beating every team in their path during the playoffs.

See 3-PEAT on Page 15

Schools called to join #WorldMileChallenge

LEIGH GASES

Join the #WorldMileChallenge that started last May 1 and will end on May 19. Register at https://raceroster.com/events/2024/88976/world-mile-challenge-2024.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All CNMI schools and the public are encouraged to join the #WorldMileChallenge that started last May 1 and will end on May 19.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. is encouraging everyone to join this year's challenge. He said there are currently 51 Run Saipan members that signed up, while there are a total of 119 runners currently registered.

The minimum is one mile but participants can log in as many as they can. The current run mileage registered so far is 1,109.

"My biggest call is if we can get the schools involved with the world mile challenge. Saipan International School has already run as a school [last] week. I hope we

See SCHOOLS on Page 15

Madflex, 670 Rollers to face off in Pokka champs

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Madflex and 670 Rollers are set to face off in the 2024 Pokka Cup championships after defeating their foes last Tuesday and Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Madflex took on Prospects and defeated them, 70-46, last Tuesday.

Prospects had a tough time against Madflex who not only controlled the paint, but also converted 3-pointers. Madflex's Christian Lucero and Jezpher Navarro went back-to-back from the 3-point range early on and by the end of the first quarter, had a dominating, 21-8 lead.

Carl Sanchez then took the spotlight in the second quarter with multiple trips to the charity line, then was complemented by another three from the hands of Navarro. The Prospects were kept to another dismal single-digit run and ended the first half with a 15-point deficit, 17-32.

The bench along with Lucero and Navarro kept the shots coming as the Prospects' hope for a comeback wilted away with each conversion.

Prospects tried to get back into it toward the end of the game, but by then, Madflex already blew it wide open.

Lucero put up a game-high 22 points followed by Navarro's 20, while Sanchez had 10 of his own. For Prospects, Leon Duenas scored the most with 9, while Liam Wilson-Sablan and Keith Agulto had twin 8s.

In the Rollers and Team Marianas' game last Wednesday, the young ballers took down the women's national team, 81-45.

The Rollers set the tone in the first half. 37-21, in what would be an eventual blow out game

Marc Tengco, James Matsumoto Jr., Elijah Ye, and Kian Helgen became the 1-2-3

See MADFLEX on Page 15

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team Madflex poses for a group photo after one of their games in the 2024 Pokka Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.